

## Arens to fly to U.S. today

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens will travel to Washington Sunday for talks with U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, the defence ministry said on Saturday. The ministry said Mr. Arens would leave Israel on Sunday night and return on Tuesday. The short statement did not say specifically what they would discuss. Mr. Cheney, now visiting U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia to assess when a ground war might begin, is due to brief President George Bush Monday. The ministry statement said Mr. Arens' visit was "part of dialogue between the two countries." Israeli military sources said the meeting was set up at short notice. Israeli Deputy Army Chief of Staff Ehud Barak and Defence Ministry Director-General David Ivri visited the United States last week for talks with Pentagon officials.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

## Help Jordan, France says

PARIS (R) — Jordan should be helped through the Gulf war rather than chastised for its criticism of the U.S.-led coalition, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said in an interview to be published Sunday. Mr. Dumas told the French weekly Journal Du Dimanche he feared the war of words between Amman and Washington could escalate. "We must not push Jordan into the arms of Iraq... we must on the contrary make easier the task of the King of Jordan," he said. U.S. President Bush criticised his Majesty King Hussein this week and charged he had moved "way over" to Iraq after the monarch accused allied forces of trying to destroy Iraq. Jordan "suffers from the war... (it) has welcomed refugees in tragic conditions, he deserves some respect. It would be a mistake to let things deteriorate," Mr. Dumas said. He had discussed the issue with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and France's European Community (EC) partners.

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# Iraq reports heavy allied casualties



A Baghdad building hit in the allied air raids

## Baghdad skies quiet, but intense air attacks on Basra

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID Saturday it inflicted heavy casualties on allied troops with a barrage of rocket fire into Saudi Arabia, reported a missile strike on Tel Aviv and declared that its forces were ready to repel a ground offensive.

A military communique broadcast on Baghdad Radio Saturday night said allied forces carried out 345 air raids on Iraq late Friday and early Saturday.

The skies over Baghdad were quiet, in contrast with recent days. But travellers arriving from the southern port city of Basra said intensive air raids continued there, targeting industrial sites and communications installations.

The military communique said the missile attack on Israel, which caused at least 25 injuries according to Israeli officials, was launched because "the Zionists are behind every aggression against Arabs and Iraq."

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"After doing their duty, our missile launchers returned safely to base, with God's help," the radio said.

The radio said the missile fired at Israel was an Al Hussein, a modified longer-range version of the Soviet-designed Scud missile.

The military communique also said Iraqi troops "directed a series of strikes with ground rockets at enemy positions across our borders with Saudi Arabia, causing many losses in men and ammunition on the hostile side."

U.S. marine artillery fire and air strikes destroyed an Iraqi command post inside Kuwait in a series of border skirmishes in which two Iraqis were captured, marines said Saturday.

Marines operating near Umm

Godair oil field attacked around sunset Friday, reporters were told.

The marines also fired at Iraqi troops along the border and took two prisoners in separate incidents early Saturday.

No details were given of any Iraqi fire but reporters were told there were no U.S. casualties. It was the second consecutive day of border skirmishes after a four-day lull. Marines said no U.S. troops entered Kuwait during the fighting.

The Defence Ministry, newspaper, Al Qadisiya, said the Iraqi army was "fully ready" for the expected allied ground offensive on Kuwait.

"We have prepared for them something that will make them regret the day they were born," said the newspaper, vowing that

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## King, Hammadi discuss latest developments

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday held talks with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saddam Hammadi on the latest developments in the Gulf war, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Mr. Hammadi, who arrived here earlier in the day after a visit to Iraq, was believed to have briefed the King on an Iranian peace initiative to end the 23-day-old war.

Mr. Hammadi, who is also a member of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), is accompanied by a delegation which includes Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'id Al Sahhaf, Parliament Deputy Speaker Ghanem Aziz and other officials.

Mr. Hammadi will hold talks with Jordanian officials on bilateral relations and the developments in the Gulf war. He is expected to visit the Arab Maghreb states after Jordan.

The delegation was received in the airport upon arrival by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masi, the Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Noori Ismail Alawis and several

officials.

### Parliamentarians arrive

Two Iraqi parliamentarians also arrived in Jordan Saturday to brief their counterparts on the Gulf war.

Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, who welcomed them, said:

"Every honest person in this nation is... waiting for victory over the enemies who came from abroad with the coordination of the Zionists and coordination of members of our (Arab) Nation who took a shameful stand," he said.

The Iraqi parliamentarians were expected to travel to Jordan last week but Amman said they postponed their trip because of allied bombing on the highway from Baghdad.

Jordan Television said the delegation will hold talks with Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament speakers and members on "the role the Arab Parliamentary Union can take in the current situation in the region."

## Diesel price hiked for transits

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet, in a meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, decided to charge every non-Jordanian truck and transport vehicle crossing the country JD 40 because of the difference in

the price of diesel. According to the decision, the trucks will have to pay JD 0,500 for each litre of diesel if their consumption exceeds 200 litres while in the Kingdom. The decision takes effect as of Tuesday, Feb. 12, 1991.

## Iraq replies to Iranian initiative

Combined agency dispatches

IRAN'S TOP policy-making body met on Saturday to discuss Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's reply to Tehran's proposal for ending the Gulf war.

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani chaired the meeting of the Supreme National Security Council after receiving the reply from Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Saddam Hammadi, the Iranian news agency IRNA said.

Mr. Hammadi, who last week took Mr. Rafsanjani's proposal to President Saddam, briefed the Iranian president on the war.

"Iraq's president and his leadership carefully studied the message and I am now carrying a written answer," Mr. Hammadi said on arrival in Tehran.

He left later for home via the Bakhtaran border.

IRNA said the council meeting reviewed the "critical situation in the region" and stressed the need for diplomatic efforts to end the conflict.

Iran, which fought a war with Iraq from 1980 to 1988, has remained neutral in the 23-day-old war between Iraq and U.S.-led allies ranged against Baghdad.

It has dubbed the conflict "the oil war," underlining its view that both sides are fighting for unjust, material causes.

Mr. Rafsanjani Wednesday told French President Francois Mitterrand he was waiting for Baghdad's reply before launching his initiative to end the war.

He said on Monday he was ready to meet President Saddam and open a dialogue with the Americans for peace.

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## Cheney briefed on ground war prospects

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. DEFENCE Secretary Dick Cheney got a nine-hour briefing from his commanders Saturday on prospects for a ground war in Kuwait amid reports of increased skirmishes between American and Iraqi border units.

A U.S. military spokesman said Mr. Cheney, ordered here by President George Bush to assess progress in the three-week-old Gulf war, was presented with "a wealth of information."

Mr. Cheney and General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, return to Washington Sunday and report to Mr. Bush Monday on results of allied air attacks against Iraqi targets and prospects for ground attack by the U.S.-led forces.

Due to the importance of Saturday's briefing, Mr. Cheney skipped a scheduled visit to a U.S. Patriot missile battery on the outskirts of Saudi Arabia's capital.

Patriots have been used to shoot down Iraqi Scud missiles

fired against Saudi Arabia and Israel. There has been speculation that the multinational force of more than 700,000 might begin a ground assault within weeks to drive up to a half million Iraqis from Kuwait.

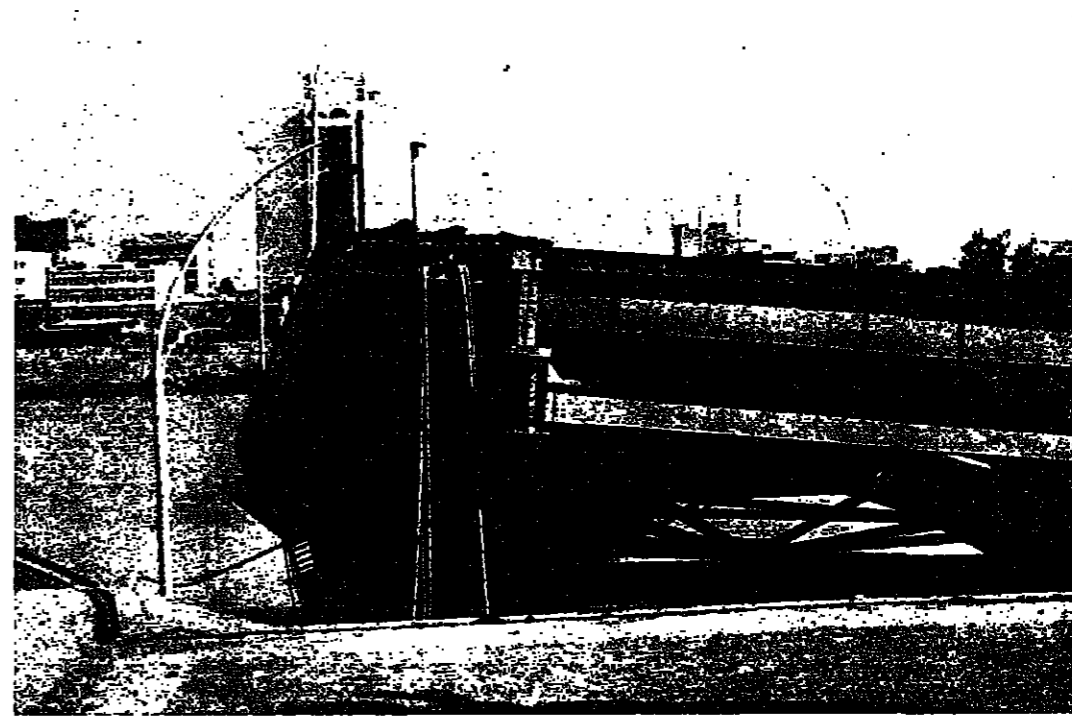
Mr. Cheney has refused to say what he will recommend to Mr. Bush, but has hinted that a limited ground war might help draw entrenched Iraqi troops and armour into the open where they could be destroyed by allied warplanes.

Mr. Cheney, who will hold a news conference before leaving Riyadh Sunday morning, was urged by some members of Congress before leaving Washington on Thursday to delay a ground attack, which could cause thousands of allied casualties.

They said an extended period of additional allied bombing could further weaken the Iraqi force.

Britain and Egypt, seeking to

(Continued on page 5)



A scene of Baghdad's Al Jumhouriyah Bridge which was wrecked in allied bombing raids Friday

## Jordan rejects U.S. contention, says pressure will not work

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's position on the Gulf crisis remains unchanged despite the harsh criticism coming from Washington and the Kingdom will continue to stick to its stand and approach to the Gulf war regardless of pressure coming from any quarters, Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine said Saturday.

"Our position has been formulated with very clear understanding of the complexities of the Gulf conflict, Arab affairs and the broader problems in the Middle East," Mr. Izzeddine said. "We have always insisted on applying international legitimacy in all conflicts, and from the very outset of the Gulf crisis, we have made our position very clear," he said.

Mr. Izzeddine was commenting on a statement by President George Bush on Friday that Jordan had "moved over, way over, to Saddam Hussein's camp totally."

Mr. Bush's criticism of Jordan



Ibrahim Izzeddine

was prompted by a speech to the nation made by His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday in which he accused the American-led coalition of waging a war aimed at destroying Iraq.

"There is indeed a definite change in language and tone of our approach," Mr. Izzeddine told the Jordan Times Saturday. "That is because of the new fact

— the destruction of an Arab country: Iraq."

"But there is no shift whatsoever in our policy and principled approach to the Gulf crisis," he said. "We still insist that the issue be resolved on the basis of international legitimacy," he added.

Mr. Izzeddine noted that Jordan has always reaffirmed its rejection of acquisition and annexation of territory by military force and this also applies to Kuwait as well as Israel's occupation of Arab territories.

"We still have the embassy of Kuwait in Amman, don't we?" the minister asked raising a point that if Jordan was indeed an all-out supporter of Iraq why it has not recognised Kuwait as the 19th province of Iraq as proclaimed by Baghdad.

"We did not want this war, and tried our best to avert it," Mr. Izzeddine said. "We still insist that there should be a negotiated solution to the problem."

The first sign of the diplomatic

(Continued on page 5)

## Scud shatters Israeli hopes for normalcy

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A fresh Iraqi Scud missile attack that injured 26 people and damaged scores of homes in the centre of the country has dashed Israeli hopes that life was returning to normal.

The lone missile ended six straight nights without air raid sirens, forcing residents to don gas masks and sprint into rooms sealed against poison gas attack.

Saturday's attack was the 11th on Israel by Iraq since the Gulf war began on Jan. 17.

A Scud fired with a conventional warhead was intercepted by U.S. Patriot anti-missile missiles but chunks of debris smashed into a middle class neighbourhood at 2.40 a.m. (0040 GMT).

The debris crushed the roofs of about a dozen houses, blew out windows for hundreds of metres and turned a row of cars into a smoldering black heap. Israel Radio said some 150 flats were damaged.

Israel said the missile attack on Israel was launched because "the Zionists are behind every aggression against Arabs and Iraq."

"Our courageous missile force at dawn today launched a destructive strike with Al Hussein missiles at Tel Aviv, the capital of the Zionist entity, to avenge the infidelity and Iraqi martyrs," the radio said. "After doing their duty, our missile launchers returned safely to base, with God's help."

The Al Hussein is a modified version of the Soviet-designed Scud missile.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said after the latest missile attack that the anger to Israel was on the wane and even further

barrages might not change his government's policy of military restraint.

"I don't think generally it would change," he said of that policy.

Mr. Shamir said that while Israel had not responded militarily to the Iraqi strikes, "we check the situation, conditions every day and every hour."

"The moment it would be clear to us that we, with our forces, could do something to end or weaken the threat, we would not hesitate to do it," he told Israel Television.

At the urging of its main ally the United States, Israel has not retaliated for the Scuds fired at it by Iraq. Four people have been killed and about 300 wounded in the strikes.

Israel has said that to retaliate it must have prior coordination with U.S.-led forces, which have repeatedly bombed missile sites in western Iraq.

In a separate interview with Israel Radio, Mr. Shamir said: "We are discussing and checking this morning and will throughout the day what more can be done to prevent the attacks against us. If we see any possibility, we will act on it."

"But for now I want to say there is no basis for worry that the danger has increased. The danger did not increase during the night or (will it) during the coming days. The opposite — the danger is waning."

Saturday's attack was the first for six days and the fifth straight in which Iraq has fired just one missile. It was also the first missile since Jan. 26 to hit an Israeli

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## 14 truckers killed in allied raids

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Jordan has told the United Nations Friday that 14 people had been killed in air attacks inside Iraq on vehicles belonging to Jordanian companies between Jan. 29 and Feb. 5.

In a letter to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Jordanian U.N. representative Abdullah Salah said the bombing by United States and allied aircraft took place on the Baghdad-Amman road.

It said 26 people had been injured and 50 trucks and tankers damaged or destroyed in the attacks.

Up to Feb. 4, seven Jordanians and an Indian had been killed. The wounded included 14 Jordanians, four Indians, two Egyptians and one Thai, while 42 vehicles were damaged or completely destroyed.

Mr. Salah said that on Feb. 5 another six people were killed and five wounded, while eight vehicles were hit. He did not give the nationalities of those casualties.

Jordan Friday also circulated as a U.N. document the text of a speech on Wednesday by His Majesty King Hussein.

Jordan is enforcing fuel rationing to cope with the diminished flow of oil from Iraq, its only supplier.

Journalists  
Francophones  
«Si vous cherchez un interprète-accompagnateur, S.V.P. contactez:  
Tel. 001278, M. Hadi Ajlouni.

## Gorbachev says allies risk exceeding U.N. mandate, sends envoy to Iraq

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Saturday the allied forces risked exceeding the United Nations mandate to oust Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the Gulf war had to be ended as soon as possible.

Mr. Gorbachev appealed to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to reconsider what was at stake for Iraq and said he was sending his personal envoy to Baghdad immediately.

In a statement carried by the official TASS news agency, Mr. Gorbachev said the Soviet leadership in principle remained committed to Security Council resolutions aimed at ending the Iraqi occupation.

"The Soviet leadership emphasises again its principled adherence to resolutions of the U.N. Security Council, which express

the will of the majority of countries... for a new international order excluding aggression (and) encroachment on foreign territory and natural riches," Mr. Gorbachev said.

"However, the logic of military operations, (and) the character of military actions threaten to exceed the mandate defined by these resolutions," he said.

Mr. Gorbachev did not specify how the coalition might exceed the U.N. mandate, which authorised use of all necessary means to have Iraq withdraw from Kuwait.

Soviet officials previously have said they feared the coalition might not only liberate Kuwait, but also occupy Iraq.

In Washington, the White House has no immediate comment on Mr. Gorbachev's statements, said spokesman Bill Har-

low.

Mr. Gorbachev's statements did not alter the Soviet Union's diplomatic position towards the Gulf war. The Soviets have expressed verbal support for the coalition but have not contributed arms or troops against Iraq, which until recently was a Soviet ally.

Mr. Gorbachev said he believed the war was entering a critical phase — a possible allusion to the start of a land offensive by the allied coalition, which was organised by the United States.

"Events in the Persian Gulf region are taking a more and more alarming and dramatic turn," he said. "The flywheel is spinning faster and faster in the biggest war of the past decade."

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## Security Council to debate Gulf war, but may shut out public

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council has decided to hold a formal meeting in the Gulf war with the United States and Britain advocating the position be held behind closed doors, a procedure not used for 5 years.

Ambassador Simbarashe Mumbengegwi of Zimbabwe, who took over the presidency on 1 February, ended weeks of debate on whether to have a meeting at all by announcing he would convene one next Wednesday and would let members decide to format.

Council members Yemen and Cuba have requested the meeting. Other nations, including five Arab states, also have requested their right as U.N. members to request and take part in a council session. They all

insist it be held in public. Yemeni Ambassador Abdalla Al Ashtal said he felt the war was getting out of hand while the Security Council sat and did nothing, having lost control of a conflict it authorised.

However, British Ambassador David Hannay said an open debate at a time Iraq had not indicated any change in its policy "does not seem to us likely to be particularly fruitful."

He indicated that a public debate would be only "an exchange of pre-ordained, pre-drafted speeches" while a private session might have an "element of dialogue" with countries who had some contact with Iraq and might be able to persuade Baghdad to change its position.

Nine votes among the council's 15 nations are needed to adopt

procedural motions, such as the kind of meeting to hold.

The United States and Britain are expected to convince a majority of council members to support a closed session, although non-aligned nations advocating an open debate still hope for support from France and Austria.

Council members on Friday also heard Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar express anguish over the plight of civilians in Iraq and Kuwait and said he particularly hoped weapons of mass destruction would not be used in the Gulf conflict.

The secretary-general also briefed the council about his decision to send a U.N. team to deliver a shipment of emergency medical supplies to Iraq for the

(Continued on page 5)

## Velayati says American policy remains unchanged

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran's foreign minister foresees no improvement in relations with the United States but says Tehran is ready to explore a security pact with Arab governments in the Gulf.

Ali Akbar Velayati, in an interview with the magazine Middle East Insight, said Washington does not want to change its foreign policy in order to repair relations with Iran.

He cited Iranian assets that remain frozen after more than a decade. "The United States hasn't changed its policy," Mr. Velayati said. "If you compare their policy now with their own policy 10 years ago, it is the same as when I came to the foreign ministry 10 years ago."

On the other hand, Mr. Velayati said Iranian cooperation with the Gulf countries, including Iraq, was essential in order to have "a secure and calm region."

He said the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), led by Saudi Arabia, "cannot ignore the role of Iran which has grossly 50 per cent of the total coast of the Persian Gulf."

Mr. Velayati said the Iran-Iraq war and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait "confirm this theory that without real and comprehensive cooperation among those countries which are in the region you cannot have security in this region."

The foreign minister was interviewed Jan. 31 in Tehran by George A. Nader, the magazine's editor.

On Thursday, Secretary of State James Baker told Congress the government was willing to have talks with Iranian leaders provided Tehran renounced "terrorism" and arranged the release of Americans held hostage by pro-Iranian forces in Lebanon.

The United States and Iran severed diplomatic ties in 1979.

Mr. Baker said Iran was making a "credible" effort to resolve the Gulf war but that its activities and those of other nations had not proved to be productive.

Some 100 Iraqi warplanes have been flown to Iran. The Tehran government, asserting its neutrality in the conflict, has pledged to keep them there until the war is over.

In the interview, Mr. Velayati challenged Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's authority to declare a holy war.

"This is not his job..." the foreign minister said. "We have our religious leader, Ayatollah Khamenei is our religious leader. If he announces a holy war, all people will follow his order. But this is not the job of Saddam Hussein."

Mr. Velayati, which fought a costly eight-year war with Iraq until 1989, reaffirmed Iran's neutrality in the Gulf war.

"Our position is quite clear," he said. "We have said that we have a neutral position. We don't want to fight against one side to benefit another side. We will remain neutral."

Asked what Iran would do if it were threatened, the foreign minister replied: "We defend our principles, our territory, our sovereignty, our independence. That's quite clear. Any country should defend its own interests, its own sovereignty, independence... If our country is attacked, we will react properly."



DEVASTATED: A bus drives along a Baghdad street where the wreckage of a building stands after being hit in the allied bombing raids.

## Egypt says 17 held on 'Iraqi plots'

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's interior minister was quoted Saturday as saying that 17 people had been arrested and had confessed to planning sabotage and assassination operations guided by Iraqi intelligence.

Minister Abdul Halim Musa said he and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid were among the targets for "hit and run" killings.

The semi-official Al Ahram newspaper quoted Mr. Musa as saying that those arrested included four Iraqis, two Jordanians and a Tunisian.

Their aim was to create the impression that Egyptians were carrying out the attacks, he said. Egypt has tightened security since the Gulf crisis in August. A key member in the anti-Iraq coalition, it has sent some 35,000 troops to the Gulf to fight Iraq.

In another interview, with the mass-circulation Al Akhbar, Mr. Musa said a maximum of 20,000 people were being detained under emergency laws introduced in 1981 after Muslim fundamentalists killed President Anwar Sadat.

Most of these were being held for drug or financial offences with a small number for political reasons.

"I stress there are no detentions without evidence," Mr. Musa said. Maghdi Hussein, deputy editor of the opposition Al Shaab newspaper, has been detained without trial since Jan. 25 for criticising the Gulf war at a mosque, colleagues said.

On Friday, the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights said psychiatrist and human rights activist Mohammad Mandour had been picked up at dawn in a crackdown on opponents of the Gulf.

At least 22 university students were also detained, the organisation said. Security officials said a number of students known to stage demonstrations had been picked up as part of "preventive and precautionary measures."

Mr. Musa warned in the Al Akhbar interview that troublemakers at universities — to reopen on Saturday and Sunday after a two-week closure for fear of demonstrations — would be dealt with firmly.

"Universities are a place for science and learning not for political activity," he said. "We will take action strongly and firmly against anyone who tries to cause unrest or block the learning process."

Legal political channels existed for students to vent their opposition, such as in the opposition media, he said, adding that no demonstrations would be allowed.

## War will damage Arab-U.S. ties for 50 years — bishop

CANBERRA (R) — The Gulf war will damage relations between the United States and the Arab World for the next 50 years, a senior American religious leader and member of the World Council of Churches (WCC) said Saturday.

"The war is a disproportionate response to Iraqi aggression and will cause more damage," Bishop Edmond Browning of the Anglican Episcopal Church in the United States told a news conference at the council's seventh assembly in the Australian capital.

Bishop Browning, who led a religious delegation to the Gulf last December, said U.S. President George Bush had told him on his return that a report by the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International on alleged Iraqi atrocities in Kuwait supported U.S. military involvement.

But Bishop Browning said the United States' failure to make similar responses to Amnesty reports on South Africa, Saudi Arabia and Syria meant its foreign policy was inconsistent.

"The U.S. foreign policy is a double standard," said Bishop Browning, a member of the WCC central committee.

"If 40 years of confrontation with the Soviet Union could have happened without a major military conflict... it seems to me we could have had some ingenuity and solved the Gulf crisis in a similar way."

Bishop Browning said the Gulf war was not in the interest of the United States or the Middle East. "I think we will inherit enmity of the Arab World for the next 50 years, at least," he said.

Bishop Browning said he did not believe the American people supported the war, despite U.S. opinion showing support at between 80 to 85 per cent.

"My analysis is that people are really not supporting the war. What they are praying for and hoping for is the young men and women and husbands and wives will return safely," he said.

Bishop Browning was critical of Mr. Bush for not heeding the call by religious leaders for a ceasefire.

"It is clear that his agenda is very different from what we have asked for. I think his agenda is to get Iraq out of Kuwait, but whether he will then go beyond the border and into Iraq remains to be seen. But I think that is his major agenda," he said.

Bishop Browning said it was never too late to call a ceasefire and return to the negotiating table.

"Political negotiations are the only way to proceed," he said. The World Council of Churches, which represents 316 churches, excluding the Roman Catholic faith, meets every seven years to formulate religious policy. The seventh assembly runs until Feb. 20.

## Gulf war is turning into world war three — church leader

CANBERRA (R) — The Gulf war is turning into world war three with allied forces unprepared to negotiate a ceasefire, a senior executive of the World Council of Churches said Saturday.

"The war that is taking place in the Gulf area is not the Gulf war, it is a global war with all its dimensions, aspects, manifestations and implications," Archbishop Aram Keshishian of Lebanon's Armenian Orthodox Church told a news conference at the council's seventh assembly in the Australian capital.

"This is not a local war, it is not a regional war, it is becoming, unfortunately, world war three."

Archbishop Keshishian, a member of the council's central committee and moderator at the assembly, said allied forces had overstepped the United Nations mandate to evict Iraq from Kuwait, adding that the United States had political motives for its military involvement.

"The coalition has gone beyond the mandate established by the U.N. and is now looking at the destruction of Iraq," he said.

"The mandate and scope of the U.N. proposal is broadening day by day. A ceasefire is not acceptable to the coalition."

However, Archbishop Keshishian said he believed there was still a chance for peace, but long-term peace in the region depended on the settlement of all Middle East conflicts.

"Peace is always a possibility in the Middle East... despite the destruction," he said.

"The problems of the Middle East are interrelated. We believe that this (Gulf) crisis can and should be solved in the broader context of all crises in the region."

He said to regard all conflicts in the Middle East as religious based was a misinterpretation.

"Even the problem between Israel and the Arab World, the Palestinian question, is not a religious problem. It is a problem of political nature and scope," he said.

He said the Gulf war was not a religious war, but a political war. "It is a war with definite political and military purposes and goals," he said.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Japanese volunteer to join Iraqi army

TOKYO (R) — At least a dozen Japanese men have volunteered to fight for Iraq, the Kyodo news agency said on Saturday. Iraq's embassy in Tokyo was noting the names of volunteers but has not said whether Baghdad would accept them as soldiers, the news agency said. Japanese Foreign Ministry officials and the Iraqi embassy were unavailable to comment. Koichi II, 24, went to the embassy to enlist in the Iraqi armed forces, Kyodo said. "I don't totally support Saddam Hussein but I do support his opinion that he is fighting to free Palestinians," the agency quoted him as saying. The Japanese government does not have the legal authority to stop people from volunteering, Kyodo quoted a Foreign Ministry official as saying.

### Soviets refuse to fly German missiles

BONN (R) — The transport of German anti-aircraft missiles to Turkey was unexpectedly delayed Friday when the Soviet crew of the cargo plane refused to fly into what they said was a war zone. The German Defence Ministry said the Antonov-124 transport plane landed eight hours late at the Cologne-Bonn airport to fly surface-to-air missiles to Turkey as part of Germany's Roland surface-to-air missile system. The plane, which had been chartered from a Dutch company, refused to fly to Turkey, saying it was not in their contract to enter a war zone, a spokesman said. The Antonov was to fly the Roland missiles to the Turkish base of Erbaa, where 18 German Alpha warplanes and 200 German airmen have been based for a month.

### Palestinian arrested at U.S. border

SEATTLE (AP) — The government is holding a Palestinian student who it contends was carrying suspicious materials, but his attorney says he is being singled out because of his nationality. A federal judge set bond at \$7,500 for 23-year-old Khaled Ashour, and immigration officials said they would continue to investigate him. Mr. Ashour, a U.S. resident for five years, faces deportation on a charge that his student status has expired. The Immigration and Naturalisation Service had listed Mr. Ashour as a potential threat to national security, citing evidence seized when he was arrested Jan. 23 at the U.S.-Canadian border north of Seattle. Among other things, officials found a paramilitary catalog and identification belonging to other people. Immigration Attorney Greg Fehlings withdrew that claim, saying there was no specific information that Mr. Ashour is a "terrorist" or has committed any "terrorist" crimes. Mr. Ashour's attorney, Carol Edward, said Mr. Ashour has been unjustly singled out because of his nationality. She says he is a victim of concern about possible "terrorism" linked to the Gulf war. He attended Boise State University in Idaho last semester, but was forced to withdraw because his parents, who live in Qatar, couldn't afford to continue paying for his education, Ms. Edward said.

### U.S. criticises Israel for Lebanon raid

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government Friday criticised Israel for its raids on Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon. Israel launched their first deep-penetration raid in Lebanon since the Gulf war began, hitting a Palestinian base. The raid came a few hours before the guerrillas withdrew to make way for Lebanese government troops. It was the third Israeli attack in the region in the past two days. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler called the Israeli raids "part of a cycle of violence which only creates more pain and suffering for the people of the area." She then went on to commend the Lebanese government for sending troops into the region. It was the army's first move into the region since 1975. There was no immediate response from Israel about the U.S. criticism.

### Bush commends Major for calm

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush called British Prime Minister John Major Friday to discuss Thursday's mortar attack near 10 Downing Street, the White House said. "The President found him in good spirit. He (Mr. Bush) said the American people have total admiration for him and his cabinet," said presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater. Mr. Fitzwater said the President commended Mr. Major "for the calm and courageous manner in which he has responded to the Irish republican Army attack." Major was meeting with his cabinet on Thursday when the mortar round, fired from a van, exploded in the back garden of the prime minister's residence. The Irish republican Army claimed responsibility for the attack.

### Iraq owes Greece \$127 million

ATHENS (AP) — Iraq owes Greece \$127 million for military materials and ammunition it purchased during its eight-year war with Iran, the government said Friday. Defence Undersecretary Alexandros Papadopoulos said Iraq owes \$75 million to the Greek arms industry and \$52.5 million to munitions manufacturer Pyral. Both companies are state-owned. Mr. Papadopoulos did not say what Iraq had purchased, but said Greece would try to collect the debts.

### Smoke from Iraq covers Iranian city

NICOSIA (R) — Heavy black smoke coming from Iraq, possibly from burning oil wells in northern Iraq, covered an Iranian city 80 kilometres from the border Saturday, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. It said thick smoke moving northeast blocked the sunlight when it blanketed Sanandaj, 410 kilometres west of Tehran. The agency quoted an official of the local branch of the Organisation for Environment Protection as saying the smoke was coming from Iraq and had also covered Marivan, a small town closer to the border. "The official said that the smoke may be the result of fire in oil wells in northern Iraq and chemicals released from the bombs fired on Iraq," IRNA said. Allied planes have been pounding Iraq since Jan. 17, mounding raids across the country including the major oil centre of Kirkuk in the north, 230 kilometres west of Sanandaj. Two weeks ago, black greasy rain fell on Iran's southern coast and thick smoke covered several towns as result of a huge fire in Kuwait across the Gulf. Oil industry sources in the Gulf said Iraqi troops had set fire to an oil pit in the emirate in an effort to hamper allied air raids by a smokescreen.

## Gulf peace team to stay on in Jordan to pursue its efforts

By Mariam M. Shashin

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — At least 22 of the original 93 members of the Gulf Peace Team will stay in Jordan to continue peaceful activities, team organisers say.

Among the projects that the peace team now considers is the creation of groups formed from the peace team to "symbolically" protect Red Crescent and Red Cross supplies and personnel going to Baghdad.

"We want to shield the medicament and humanitarian aid going to Baghdad from getting bombarded. Our presence, we consider, would be a guarantee that the transport vans would be filled with humanitarian aid," said Tim Barker, one of the peace team members staying in Jordan.

Over 30 members of the team recently had an audience with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who commended them for their efforts to halt the Gulf war and gave them some advice.

"The Crown Prince told us that he was concerned about our credibility and he suggested that we could do a lot to raise

the awareness about the realities of this war back home," Mr. Barker said.

Team organisers told the Jordan Times that since several of the peace team members are working in the media some of them will go to their home countries to report on what they have seen as soon as possible. Others meanwhile will stay here to continue documenting the war from Jordan.

A commemorative march to mark the 17th of every month by peace team members and their supporters around the world is also among the group's objectives. Those Gulf Peace Team members staying in Jordan plan to "link up" with Jordanian organisations that will demonstrate for peace on the 17th.

Organisers say that another peace camp along the Jordanian-West Bank border is also being considered by the team but final plans have not yet been made.

In an open letter that the peace team presented to the United States embassy as well as to the embassy of the United Kingdom in Amman the team

urged increased diplomatic efforts to bring about peace and understanding.

"Bearing in mind the horrific war we are involved in and the need for a settlement of many issues in this area, we are depressed by reductions of essential embassy staff," read the letter.

"It is vital to be able to use all peaceful means to restore peace," the letter continued. "To this end an increase not a decrease would seem the correct action."

Urging the embassies to consider those foreign citizens who wish to stay in this part of the world the letter read, "We also remind you of the large number of your citizens here who desire to live in peace and harmony with their Arab hosts... these aspirations must be considered, as well as their right to continued consular services."

Team organisers say that they hope to raise as much consciousness as they can in their native countries, all in all some 15 around the world. Their friends in Jordan they hope "will be their friends forever."

## Sand like talcum powder gives allies maintenance headache

SAUDI ARABIA (R) — Fine sand like talcum powder has dramatically increased weapons and vehicle maintenance for U.S. and allied ground forces as they prepare for a possible offensive on Iraqi positions inside Kuwait.

Plagued for months in the run-up to the Gulf war by sand that clogged equipment, the forces now moved to forward positions find themselves on even more damaging terrain.

Maintenance crews say it could seriously impair equipment if the conflict lasts months.

The pervasive powdery sand of northern Saudi Arabia permeates weapons, vehicles and computers. The desert is also extremely rocky is taking its toll on supply and passenger vehicles.

"It's a nuisance we can do without. It required a lot of extra effort to keep things clean," said Sergeant First Class Surrender Kotahakota, of a U.S. army maintenance battalion. "Longer term, it could be a serious problem."

Air filters on motor vehicles have to be changed every two

days compared with every (48,000 kilometres) under normal conditions. Sgt. Kotahakota said. Filters on gas attack detection systems, normally replaced every 72 hours, must be changed on the hour.

Magazines on M-16 rifles, standard U.S. infantrymen's equipment, clog with sand and have jammed and some soldiers wrap their rifles in undershirts to stop key components seizing up with desert dust.

The sand has clogged vehicle transmission and fuel filters and rocks puncture tyres.

"It just makes everyone's life more difficult," said Sgt. Scott Tarplee, who directs aircraft to resupply troops. "It's not something that cannot be dealt with."

When the U.S.-led military buildup in Saudi Arabia began shortly after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, crews noticed sand was eroding the leading edges of helicopter rotor blades.

The military solved the problem by applying an epoxy tape to the edges. But in the north, where the sand is finer and rises

more easily, the tape has to be changed after several hours.

The fine dust gets sucked into helicopter engines and not even particle separators can keep it all out.

"For now, they are performing well," said Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Tucker, the commander of a U.S. army battalion of Apache tank-killing helicopter.

"It's going to have an effect. You can't put a time or a date on it," he said.

"It wears out moving parts of the engines. The sand collects inside the engine, causes it to get hotter and therefore it doesn't produce as much power."

Other Apache pilots said antennas and other sensitive electronic parts were at risk and that the whirl of the rotors kicked up gravel which caused "dints and dings" on the aircraft that could eventually upset its aerodynamic structure.

Apache crew chief Sgt. Philip Pierce said parts on the helicopter had been replaced as needed and that supplies were being provided without too much delay.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### PRAYER TIMES

06:01 ..... Fajr  
06:19 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:58 ..... Dhuhr  
14:53 ..... 'Asr  
17:29 ..... Maghrib  
18:39 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifish Tel. 810740  
Annablin of God Church, Tel. 627383.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrence Church Tel. 622566  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.  
Anglican Church Tel. 625363, Tel. 625363.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A rise in temperatures will take place and some clouds will appear at low altitudes.

Amman ..... Min./max. temp. 2 / 13  
Aqaba ..... 7 / 20  
Deraia ..... 9 / 15  
Jordan Valley ..... 4 / 19

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:  
Dr. Waleed Al Mousi ..... 675485  
Dr. Nizar Abu Zaid ..... (-)  
Dr. Khalid Al-Muradi ..... 743500  
Dr. Kayed Halayqa ..... 793522  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 718336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 670255  
Nawroth pharmacy ..... 623672

AMMAN:  
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Dr. Nizar Abu Zaid ..... (-)  
Dr. Khalid Al-Muradi ..... 743500  
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Dr. Kayed Halayqa ..... 793522  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 718336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 670255  
Nawroth pharmacy ..... 623672

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630441  
Rescue ..... 630441

### COMPLAINTS

Amman Municipality ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 625101

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hamid Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642416  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Mallat, J. Amman ..... 636140

### MARKET PRICES

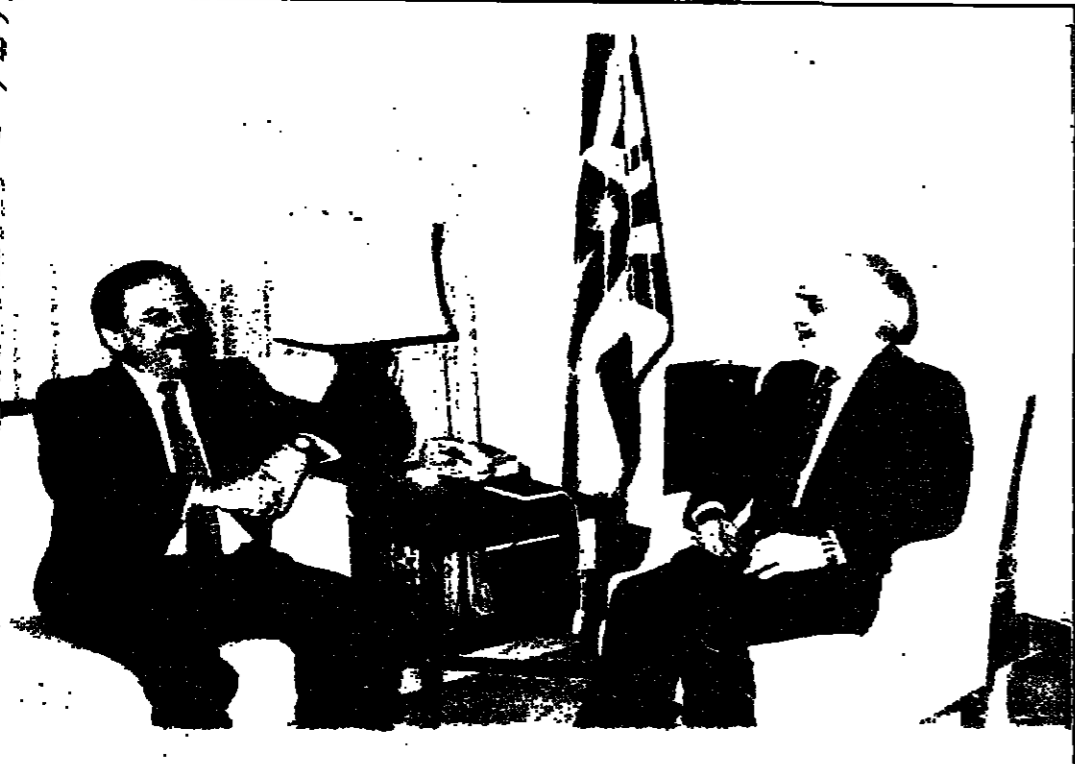
Uppercase price in \$/kg  
Apple ..... 550 / 480

### MARKET PRICES

Uppercase price in \$/kg  
Apple ..... 550 / 480

Palatino, Shamsi ..... 664171/4  
Shamsi Hospital ..... 667131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Munther Hospital ..... 66722/9  
The Islamic, Abdull ..... 66612/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdull ..... 66416/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajir ..... 771010  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marica ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alla Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarga Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarga National Hospital ..... (09)991071  
Rus Sima Hospital ..... (09)987322  
BEIRUT:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272775  
Rus Al-Nahs Hospital ..... (02)271000  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

Pepper (hot) ..... 350 / 300  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 320 / 280  
Potato ..... 230 / 180  
Radish ..... 100 / 50  
Sage ..... 400 / 300  
Spinach ..... 150 / 100  
Tomatoes ..... 180 / 120



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives Cypriot Foreign Minister George Iacovou (Petra photo)

## King discusses Gulf crisis with Cypriot foreign minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Saturday Cypriot Foreign Minister George Iacovou and discussed with him developments in the Gulf crisis and non-aligned nations endeavours to stop the war.

King Hussein stressed the need for the non-aligned nations to exert more efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement to the crisis to put an end to devastation and suffering.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri was present at the meeting. Iacovou, who arrived on a two-day visit to Jordan, said in a statement at the airport that his visit to Amman preceded his visit to Yugoslavia where 15 foreign ministers of the Non-aligned Movement would discuss ways to end the Gulf war.

Iacovou was quoted as saying that the Belgrade meeting would include Iran, Algeria and India, three countries that have been

involved in a flurry of diplomatic activity in recent days to arrange a ceasefire.

He said that during his visit here, he hoped to hear Jordan's views about the crisis prior to the meeting in Yugoslavia where the non-aligned ministers hope to reach a common ground for a peace formula.

Iacovou said his country supports the U.N. Security Council resolution demanding Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait but noted that Cyprus does not support a double standard dealing or different criteria in handling world problems.

The Associated Press (AP) news agency quoted diplomatic sources here as saying that Iacovou's visit was an attempt to reconcile conflicting views within the Non-aligned Movement on the form its peace initiative should take.

Iacovou chairs a committee of the movement charged with

studying how to give the organisation of 115 states more say in international developments.

The Cypriot foreign minister and Mr. Masri later held a separate meeting during which they exchanged views about the Gulf war and the non-aligned countries moves to help end the conflict.

The two ministers expressed hope that serious efforts would be made on the part of the Belgrade meeting to reach an acceptable solution that would safeguard the interests of all concerned parties.

The ministers also underlined the importance of preserving the Non-aligned Movement's credibility as an essential element for settling world conflicts by peaceful means.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the two ministers also discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict and the deteriorating situation in the Israeli held Arab territories.

## RJ buses join fleet of public transport

AMMAN (J.T.) — A decline in Royal Jordanian (RJ) flights amid the general weak air transport on Middle East routes has helped the national air carrier to release 15 of its buses to be used by the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) along with other PTC buses operating in Amman, according to an RJ official Saturday.

The official said that an agreement was signed recently between RJ and the PTC under which the latter would assume the operation of the 15 buses for public transport following the government decision to allow private cars to run on alternate days only.

Under the agreement the PTC would make use of five 50-passenger, five 25-passenger and five 14-passenger buses along with their 20 drivers to work for the PTC for a whole month.

The agreement is renewable with the consent of both parties and, according to the official, RJ would carry out the maintenance and repair services to the buses during the lease.

Offering the buses to the PTC is a clear RJ contribution to the national efforts aimed at reducing fuel consumption, an objective sought by the government under the present difficult circumstances, the official noted.

He said that once the crisis

over, RJ would resume its full and normal air and land activities.

The PTC has 300 buses operating along its various routes in the Greater Amman region, in addition to 50 buses which were hired from the Jordan Express Tourist and Transport Company (JETT) under a recent agreement.

Transport and Telecommunications Minister Jamal Saraih said that the availability of sufficient buses should prompt citizens to opt for public transport rather than private cars.

Upon introducing the recent regulations concerning the private cars, a government statement said that the move was expected to save up to 35 per cent of the total national fuel consumption.

Before the introduction of the new measures, the Kingdom was normally consuming 60,000 barrels of Iraqi oil a month. But with the bombing raids on the oil tanker trucks along the Amman-Baghdad route, the government had no alternative but to take drastic measures to cut oil consumption.

According to the director of the traffic department, road accidents in Jordan have been cut by half following the application of the new government measures regarding the use of private cars.

## Premier receives 1st grant from GUVS

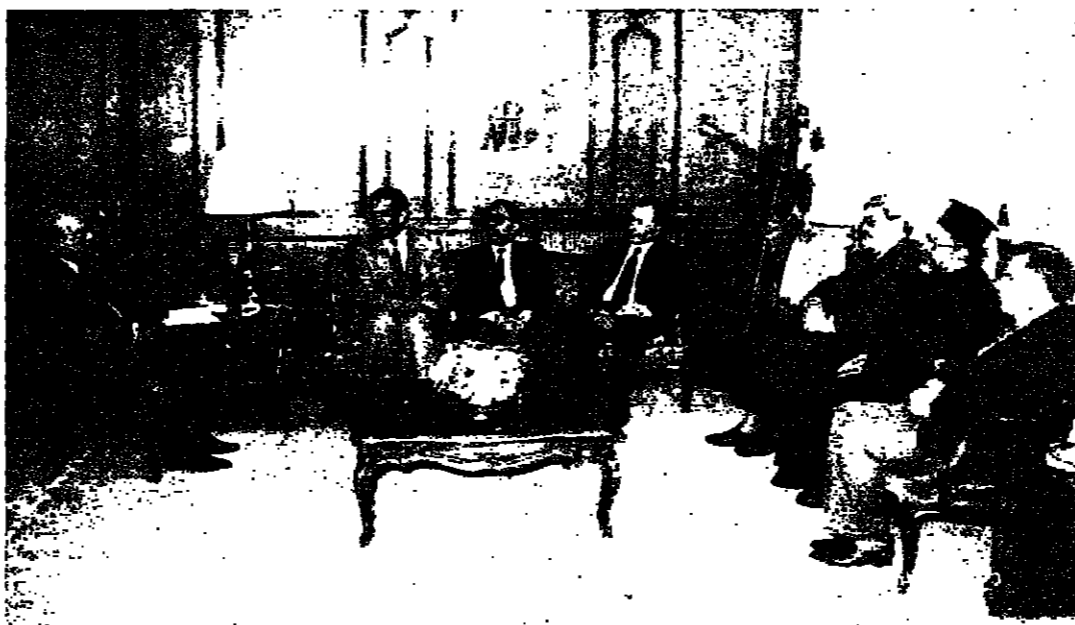
AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Saturday presented Prime Minister Mudar Badran with a donation of JD 25,000 as a first instalment of a GUVS contribution to the People's Army.

Mr. Badran responded by expressing deep appreciation to the charitable organisations for their efforts to bolster the Kingdom's defences.

The Jordanian government expresses appreciation and gratitude to the voluntary and charitable societies for their due response to calls for supporting the People's Army which is considered a back up force for the Jordanian Armed Forces, Badran said upon receiving the donation.

The donation was presented by GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib and the members of GUVS executive council at a meeting held at the prime minister's office.

The donation shows a good response on the part of the private sector in general and the



APPECIATION: Prime Minister Mudar Badran thanks members of GUVS council on the continued services of the voluntary societies in Jordan.

voluntary and charitable associations in particular as they carry out valuable services in various areas of Jordan, the prime minister noted.

He said that the donation was an expression by word and deed of the cohesion among Jordanian citizens and a manifestation of a strong national unity.

The government stresses its keenness on supporting and assisting GUVS endeavours and reiterates its pledge that it will exert all available power to ensure public safety and security to all Jordanians, the prime minister said at the meeting.

The prime minister expressed hope that Jordan will overcome the present difficulties with further determination and resolve

under the Hashemite leadership guided by the principles of the Great Arab Revolt.

Khatib and council members briefed the prime minister on GUVS activities and its cooperation and coordination with the concerned government departments. They also outlined GUVS plans to deal with emergencies resulting from the Gulf war.

Dr. Khatib described the meeting with the prime minister as a good opportunity to present a briefing to the government about GUVS contributions to the general effort to bolster the People's Army and the country's defences.

At least 450 GUVS centres in Jordan are ready to offer assistance to citizens under any

emergency, said Khatib after the meeting.

He added that the prime minister expressed deep satisfaction with GUVS activities which, among other things, include a plan drawn up in cooperation with the civil defence, the health ministry and other departments to provide services in the Amman region and its various districts.

Dr. Khatib urged all voluntary and charitable societies in the Kingdom to pursue efforts in raising contributions from the public.

The council members attending the meeting were: Father Costantine Karmash, Asem Ghoshe, Mohammad Al Hadid and Mohammad Wardam who is GUVS secretary general.

## IOM gets Japanese aid to help evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japanese organisations have either pledged or provided funds to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to charter planes to repatriate evacuees coming into Jordan from the Gulf region, according to an IOM official in Amman.

He told the Jordan Times that at least \$500,000 have either been pledged or received by his organisation to carry out the transportation of the evacuees arriving from Iraq and Kuwait.

The IOM charters planes from Jordan Air or Royal Jordanian (RJ) to carry out the repatriation process, the official noted. Agency France Presse (AFP) earlier reported the arrival of 143 evacuees in Cairo on an IOM chartered flight from Amman and he official said that his organisation would continue to charter planes depending on the number of evacuees coming to Jordan over the coming stage.

A second flight scheduled for Friday was cancelled because there were not enough evacuees to fill half the plane, according to Royal Jordanian

sources.

The cost of chartering a flight from Amman to Cairo ranges from \$40,000 to \$50,000, according to the IOM.

Earlier four IOM chartered planes evacuated nearly 1000 Vietnamese refugees and Thais from Cairo where they had arrived from Jordan.

Reports from Tokyo said that by raising the funds, civic groups hope to persuade the government to give up its plan to send military transport planes to help the refugee evacuation effort.

Opposition legislators in parliament have argued that Japan's constitution prohibits sending military planes to a war zone.

Last week, a Japanese parliamentary delegation paid a three-day visit to Jordan, paving the way for a Japanese government decision to send military transport planes to repatriate foreign nationals converging on Jordan from the Gulf.

The IOM estimates about 25,000 refugees are now stranded by the war in Jordan, Syria, Turkey and Iran.

## Ceremonies start Monday to mark Muslim holy day

AMMAN (J.T.) — A major ceremony will be held at the King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Mosque at Abdali Monday on the eve of the (Israa Wal Miraj) holy feast which falls on Tuesday, according to an official announcement by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

The announcement said that the ministers of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, and education in addition to several prominent Islamic figures in Jordan would address the worshippers at the mosque during the ceremony which was organised by the Ministry of Awqaf.

It said that similar ceremonies and seminars to mark the occasion would be organised in other parts of the Kingdom.

On the eve of the ceremonies, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs issued a statement to the public reminding Muslims of their responsibilities and calling on them to remain united in the face of the continuing aggression on the Arab and Islamic worlds.

This holy anniversary comes at a time when the Arabs and Muslims are plagued by divisions and while the new Crusaders are launching a brutal aggression on the nation with the aim of obliterating the Islamic faith and annihilating Arab culture and religious heritage, the statement said.

The feast comes at a time when Israel continues to occupy Al Aqsa Mosque and the holy shrines of Palestine, and when Israel's allies are occupying the Arabian Peninsula which embodies the Islamic holy shrines in Mecca and Medina, the statement added.

## Sharaf assails Western media

GENEVA (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador to the U.N. European headquarters, Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, has said that His Majesty King Hussein's latest address to the nation expressed the opinion of the Arab Nation at an extremely difficult period when war is being launched against Arabs.

Answering questions of journalists on the implications of the King's address, Sharaf said His Majesty was fully aware of the course of political events in the region, and that his efforts were always aimed at informing the whole world of the dimensions of the Palestinian question and the rights of the Palestinian people.

Western diplomats have always appreciated the King's views and opinions and considered him as a spokesman for the whole Arab Nation on various Middle East issues, Sharaf said.

Sharaf said most of the speeches of Western politicians contained fallacies, falsification of facts and illusion of the public opinion which he have never seen in more than 30 years.

Sharaf criticised the Western media for imposing a blackout on the news, saying that not even a single picture of any Iraqi civilian victim has so far appeared in the Western media.

The King's speech came at this extremely difficult and precarious time, to tell the whole world that there is an Arab leader who can reflect Arab conscience and history, and can tell Western politicians and public opinion that there is an Arab point of view which they should know, Sharaf said.

He added that the King has warned of the gravity of the continuous and intensive air raids launched by the U.S.-led alliance on Iraq; and the continued enforcement of blanket curfew on Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories as well as the dangers the new world order poses to the countries of the region.

According to Khreis, the committee has now received from the Iraqi side a list of materials and medicines needed for treatment in Iraq; and is arranging to meet these needs.

He said that the committee has several teams who tour various provinces in Jordan to collect donations against formal receipts, and that the contributions process was continuing.

and other countries have sent to the committee several consignments of medicines and medical equipment and more is in the pipeline said Khreis.

In addition, he noted the committee has received numerous applications from volunteer Arab doctors in Denmark as well as pledges that they would be dispatching medicines and medical equipment to accompany doctors going to Iraq.

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## ROYAL JORDANIAN

### Royal Jordanian Flight Schedule

#### SUNDAY 10/2/1991

Departing flights from Amman to:

Dest.	Arrival
VIENNA	11:00 a.m. 02:00 p.m.
PARIS	11:00 a.m. 04:00 p.m.
LONDON	11:00 a.m. 05:00 p.m.
TRIPOLI	11:30 a.m. 06:00 p.m.
TUNIS	11:30 a.m. 03:00 p.m.
LARNACA	09:15 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
DAMASCUS	09:15 a.m. 10:00 p.m.

Arriving flights to Amman from:

Dest.	Arrival
CAIRO	07:30 a.m. 09:30 a.m.
VIENNA	01:30 p.m. 06:15 p.m.
NEW YORK	09:30 p.m. 06:15 p.m.
AMSTERDAM	11:30 a.m. 06:15 p.m.
FRANKFURT	12:25 p.m. 07:45 p.m.
VIENNA	03:00 p.m. 07:45 p.m.

#### MONDAY 11/2/1991

Departing flights from Amman to:

Dest.	Arrival
CAIRO	10:00 a.m. 12:15 p.m.
MUSCAT	11:55 a.m. 11:30 p.m.
ROME	05:00 p.m. 08:00 p.m.
VIENNA	05:00 p.m. 08:45 p.m.
LARNACA	09:15 p.m. 10:45 p.m.

Arriving flights to Amman from:

Dest.	Arrival
LARNACA	06:30 a.m. 08:00 a.m.
TUNIS	04:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
TRIPOLI	07:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
CAIRO	01:15 p.m. 03:15 p.m.
LONDON	09:25 a.m. 07:45 p.m.
PARIS	12:10 p.m. 07:45 p.m.
VIENNA	03:00 p.m. 07:45 p.m.

#### TUESDAY 12/2/1991

Departing flights from Amman to:

Dest.	Arrival
VIENNA	11:00 a.m. 02:00 p.m.
PARIS	11:00 a.m. 04:50 p.m.
LONDON	11:00 a.m. 05:45 p.m.
CAIRO	08:00 p.m. 10:15 p.m.

Arriving flights to Amman from:

Dest.	Arrival
MUSCAT	00:30 a.m. 08:15 a.m.
LARNACA	08:00 a.m. 09:30 a.m.
VIENNA	10:00 a.m. 04:30 p.m.
ROME	11:45 a.m. 04:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY 13/2/1991

Departing flights from Amman to:

Dest.	Arrival
VIENNA	11:15 a.m. 04:00 p.m.
LARNACA	11:15 a.m. 12:45 p.m.
CAIRO	09:00 p.m. 11:15 p.m.
TUNIS	09:00 p.m. 01:30 a.m.

Arriving flights to Amman from:

Dest.	Arrival
CAIRO	08:00 a.m. 09:30 a.m.
LONDON	09:25 a.m. 07:45 p.m.
PARIS	12:10 p.m. 07:45 p.m.
VIENNA	03:00 p.m. 07:45 p.m.

#### THURSDAY 14/2/1991

Departing flights from Amman to:

Dest.	Arrival
LARNACA	10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.
MUSCAT	11:00 a.m. 10:30 p.m.
VIENNA	11:00 a.m. 02:00 p.m.
PARIS	11:00 a.m. 04:50 p.m.
LONDON	11:00 a.m. 05:45 p.m.
CAIRO	08:00 p.m. 10:15 p.m.

Arriving flights to Amman from:

Dest.	Arrival
LARNACA	04:30 a.m. 06:00 a.m.
BANGKOK	05:00 p.m. 06:00 a.m.
TUNIS	02:00 a.m. 06:30 a.m.
CAIRO	06:30 a.m. 08:30 a.m.
VIENNA	11:00 a.m. 05:30 p.m.
LARNACA	04:00 p.m. 05:30 p.m.

#### FRIDAY 15/2/1991

Departing flights from Amman to:

Dest.	Arrival
CAIRO	01:30 p.m. 03:45 p.m.
CAIRO	08:00 p.m. 10:15 p.m.
LARNACA	09:00 p.m. 10:30 p.m.

Arriving flights to Amman from:

Dest.	Arrival
MUSCAT	11:30 p.m. 07:15 a.m.
CAIRO	04:45 p.m. 09:30 a.m.
CAIRO	09:25 a.m. 06:30 p.m.
LONDON	12:10 p.m. 07:45 p.m.
PARIS	12:10 p.m. 07:45 p.m.
VIENNA	02:00 p.m. 07:45 p.m.

#### SATURDAY 16/2/1991

Departing flights from Amman to:

Dest.	Arrival
VIENNA	11:00 a.m. 02:00 p.m.
AMSTERDAM	11:00 a.m. 05:00 p.m.
NEW YORK	11:00 a.m. 08:00 p.m.
FRANKFURT	11:00 a.m. 04:30 p.m.
PARIS	11:00 a.m. 04:50 p.m.
LONDON	11:00 a.m. 05:45 p.m.
CAIRO	08:00 p.m. 10:15 p.m.

Arriving flights to Amman from:

Dest.	Arrival
CAIRO	07:00 a.m. 09:30 a.m.
LARNACA	07:00 a.m. 09:45 a.m.
DAMASCUS	08:45 a.m. 07:45 a.m.
LARNACA	04:30 p.m. 06:00 p.m.

Royal Jordanian would like to draw the attention of the passengers that all reconfirmation of reservations must be performed in-person together with their travel documents at the RJ office in Amman, 24 hours prior to the day of departure. Royal Jordanian would also like to inform all passengers that the timings of all departures or arrivals are subject to change without prior notice due to the prevailing circumstances.

Therefore kindly contact RJ reservation office at 678321 for further clarifications.

All passengers must report at Queen Alia International Airport THREE hours prior to the scheduled departure. Thank you.

**JORDAN TIMES**  
TEL. 667171

## Jordan Times

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### Sunday's Economic Pulse

## America against Jordanian people

LAST week the United States used the oil weapon against Jordan by targeting the Jordanian oil transportation vehicles on the international highway between Amman and Baghdad shedding in the process Jordanian blood for the first time in history.

President Bush, emerged from last week's episode with his own hands directly covered with Jordanian blood, while in the past America used Israeli pilots to kill Arabs using American equipment.

This week the American president decided to carry his unwarranted war against Jordan one step further. After using the oil weapon, he intends to use other economic weapons as well. He announced that after His Majesty King Hussein's speech last Wednesday, he will revise and suspend American economic aid to Jordan in order to starve the people of Jordan and give them a lesson.

The threat is meaningless, because the American aid was actually suspended since Aug. 2, 1990 despite all the good words and understanding that America had had for Jordan's adherence to the United Nations sanctions.

American financial aid was minimal any way. The bulk of such aid never found its way to the Jordanian treasury. A revision of American aid to Jordan in the last 10 years will show that three quarters of the allocated amounts as aid to Jordan were in fact spent inside America on American consultants making studies and writing reports about privatisation, marketing, services, and other projects.

The new measure is said to be taken in reprisal to the speech by King Hussein which was covered live by the CNN network, seen and heard by American families.

The speech did not indicate any change of Jordanian policy. It simply reflected the true feelings of the Jordanian people. So in effect, President Bush wanted to punish not our actions but our feelings and opinion.

As is obvious, Jordan is not involved in any military action. Its army has dug along the Jordan Valley in a defensive posture to protect Jordan from a possible Israeli aggression. The only crime that President Bush has been able to point to is that the Jordanian public opinion is hostile against American savage raids with his people instead of suppressing his people as other Arab regimes are doing.

President Bush is punishing Arabs for being and feeling that they are Arabs. Perhaps he is under the wrong impression that only Jordanians are against the allied assault on an Arab people. The simple fact is that Arab public opinion is the same from Morocco in the west to Iraq in the east, and from Syria in the north to Yemen and Sudan in the south. The only difference lies in the degree of freedom of expression enjoyed by each Arab people. Under certain regimes the people are suppressed. What the Jordanians are saying represents

the conscience of the whole Arab Nation. Democracy in Jordan allowed the people to express their views towards the war in a civilised manner through press coverage, opinionated editorials, peaceful demonstrations and memorandums, while lack of democracy in the Gulf states led the people in Jeddah to attack a bus to express the same sentiment. Here in Jordan the people are ready to cooperate with the government and report any threat to public security, while in Saudi Arabia the government has to offer one million dollars to any citizen that agrees to help the authorities by providing information in any matter related to national security.

President Bush does need to reconsider and revise his position. But any real revision should tell him that he is waging an unjust war, not against Saddam Hussein but against the whole Arab nations. He is against Saddam Hussein but against the whole Arab nations. He is denouncing their Arab nationality to deserve his dollars.

At one time the Bush administration said that after the cold war has ended and the anti-communism drive is no more crucial to countries which are democratic, have free market economy, and refrain from terrorism and drug production and trafficking. Well under these criteria it takes hatred and blindness to prevent the president of the United States from realising that Jordan deserved help not air raids against its life line, and that he is on the wrong side of history.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

## Change of medicine

THE U.N. Security Council is due to meet Wednesday, almost a month after the Gulf war erupted, and probably a day after the land battle, code-named by the Americans "Valentine Day massacre," is launched. If the council is ever to be convened in that day, it will be the first time in U.N. history that a war as brutal and devastating as the Gulf war has been left unchecked and unaddressed by the world body for so long. Strange as this may be, one need not be puzzled. Even long before the Gulf crisis and the war erupted, the U.N. and its various organisations were manipulated by the big powers, especially the U.S. One cannot recollect the number of times that the U.S. used its veto right to foil the council resolutions, especially those addressing the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Apart from the Korean war, when the U.S. also led a coalition similar to the one it leads now in the Gulf, the present conflict demonstrates beyond any shadow of a doubt how defunct and obsolete the United Nations mandate and the world order it represents. One need not dwell on the double standards that the U.S. and its Western allies, who among them and with the demise of the Soviet empire and the impotence of China, have been applying to the conflicts of the Middle East. The world order that the victorious allies of World War II forced on the nations of earth is coming to an end. Third World nations, who for decades were used as fires in the East-West cold war, have lost all faith in that order as embodied in the U.N. and will for sure resist the new world order that the U.S., France and Britain are contemplating to enforce.

The Arabs who in the shadow of the cold war aligned themselves with East or West now have no choice. The East has fallen out of prominence. They have now to submit to the will of the West, led by the U.S., or seek their total independence once and for all. Arab leaders and their power games aside, no honest, self-respecting Arab citizen has faith in the U.N. and its principles nor any liking of the old-new colonialists of Britain, France and the U.S.

No matter if the Security Council convened or not, held a close or an open session, discussed the Gulf war or not, everyone knows that that organ's body and soul owned by the U.S. and its allies. One needs only to recall past six months' history of the council. That body, presumably founded to prevent war and ensure peace, took one decision after the other culminating in Resolution 678 that ironically authorised an old alliance of nations, led by the U.S., to wage a brutal war on a U.N. member.

This might not be the end of the U.N., its Security Council and its charter, but the world body is certainly on its deathbed and would need a change of medicine — and a massive dose at that — to bring it back to life.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ISRAELI media are launching propaganda campaigns against Jordan nowadays because Israel says that Jordan's voice continues to be heard around the world, after claiming that the hostile forces have stifled the Iraqi voice, according to Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. The paper said that the hostile forces and Israeli believe that they have jammed Iraq's radio and television and so they stopped Iraq from carrying to the world the truth about the situation in the Gulf. It said that Jordan's media will continue to propagate the truth and to counter all lies and false reports put about by the U.S. "At work against the Arab cause and the Iraqi people. The paper said that the Israeli and Western media have been imposing a total blackout on news coming out from Baghdad about the ongoing aggression and about the sufferings of the Iraqi people because of such aggression, but the Jordanian media is determined to present the facts to the world to abort all Zionist and other hostile attempts to silence the Arab voice. The Jordanian media, Al Ra'i noted, can by no means take part in the blackout crime being committed against Iraq and will continue to tell the truth to the world because Jordanian media reflect the democracy which has prevailed in Jordan and the responsible and national sense which no threats or intimidations can stifle. The paper said that the Jordanian media will continue to serve as a beacon and a ray of hope lighting the way in the darkness by presenting the truth about the aggression committed by the U.S.-led coalition against an Arab country.

Al Dustour daily Saturday placed the responsibility for the catastrophe in the Gulf area squarely on President Bush who, it said, had escalated tension in the pre-war period and who exploited the U.N. Security Council resolutions in order to destroy Iraq. The paper said that minutes of talks between the Iraqi president and the U.N. Secretary General clearly indicate that the United Nations has been influenced by the United States for the decision to declare war and therefore the American president personally bears the responsibility for this serious situation in the Gulf. The paper noted that Bush's statements provoked Iraq into opting for confrontation, which the Iraqi leadership had worked hard to avoid; and it was the United States escalation of the tension in the region before the conflict that closed all the doors of dialogue with Iraq and aborted all attempts to find an Arab solution for the crisis. The paper said that international law was transformed by the United States into an American law which rejected Iraq's Aug. 2 initiative, and which aborted Iraq's attempts to withdraw from Kuwait under an Arab League formula. The Saddam Hussein-Perez de Caceres minutes reveal astonishing facts about the United States behaviour and American pressures exerted on Security Council members which succumbed to Washington's intimidation or tempting promises, the paper added. It said that for its part Iraq accepted Security Council Resolution 660 and started withdrawing its troops from Kuwait on the second day of their incursion into the emirate, but the United States, working under Zionist pressure, opted to take an aggressive stand.

## King Hassan rides wave of pro-Iraqi sentiment

By Stephen Hughes

RABAT, Reuter — King Hassan of Morocco, a staunch friend of the United States and Saudi Arabia, is riding a huge wave of pro-Iraqi sentiment.

The king, who celebrates 30 years on the throne next month, sent 1,300 infantry troops to join the multinational Gulf force after Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

But even though five opposition parties and Muslim fundamentalists seized on a surge of support for Iraq across North Africa to organise Morocco's biggest street protest on Sunday he is resisting calls to bring the army home.

"King Hassan and the government are trying to ride a wave of strong pro-Iraqi sentiment by taking the initiative away from the opposition," one Western diplomat said.

"It's like riding a surf board and requires a great deal of agility," he added.

An estimated 300,000 people marched through Rabat in support of Iraq on Sunday.

"Bring back the Far (royal armed forces) the marchers chanted. "We are all Iraqis," proclaimed banners in the parade attended by lawyers, doctors, trade union, student, university and human rights groups.

It was the first authorised street protest since King Hassan sent his troops to Saudi Arabia where they are stationed at the kingdom's largest oil refinery in Assafaniya.

"I certainly did not (sent them) to combat Iraq to make it withdraw from Kuwait," the king said in a broadcast in which he explained the troops were on an independent defensive mission.

"I will not allow the presence of Moroccan troops abroad to be criticised because it would threaten their morale," he said after opposition leaders had called for their withdrawal during a special session of parliament devoted to the Gulf crisis.

As supreme commander of

the royal armed forces, which number more than 200,000 men, the king said his prerogatives could not be defied.

Sunday's well-organised demonstration went off without incident. Earlier the king had said he would decree a state of siege at the first sign of disorder and have troublemakers tried by military tribunals.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

But party leaders were clearly very pleased with the turnout. "Everything went without any disorder. It proves Moroccans are mature and responsible people," one said.

There have been reports of unauthorised anti-war protests in numerous schools and in the streets of towns like Larache, Oujda and Tetuan.

Widespread unemployment and economic hardship, aggravated by the Gulf crisis, fuelled riots during a strike in December after which several hundred people

were jailed for up to 15 years.

"There is growing frustration and resentment, about economic problems and human rights, and the opposition is exploiting these feelings," a university professor said.

But so far there has been no large-scale violence of the kind that erupted in December.

In attempts to take the initiative away from the opposition, the palace is gathering humanitarian aid for Iraq. The government has told opposition parties they cannot collect public donations.

The king's daughter, Princess Lalla Meriem, president of the army's social services, gave the international red cross 60 tonnes of medicines as a gift from the army for Iraq on Thursday.

The monarch's sister, Princess Lalla Malika, president of the red crescent, is appealing for cash donations to pay for humanitarian aid for Iraqi victims of the war to drive Iraq from Kuwait.

## Israel's Gulf war honeymoon with Washington may be short-lived

By Alan Elsner  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Israel's Gulf war honeymoon with the United States may be short-lived. Already clouds are gathering in what has become a complex love-hate relationship, analysts said.

"Israel has removed much of the bad feeling evident in the relationship last year by staying out of the Gulf war," said Jed Snyder, a former Pentagon Middle East consultant.

"However, there will be enormous pressure on the Bush administration to deliver to Israel to a Middle East peace conference after the war. That is going to create a lot of tension," he said.

In fact, the old bugbear of U.S.-Israeli relations — Israel's policy of expanding Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and in the annexed neighbourhoods of East Jerusalem — has already raised its head.

The Gulf crisis came in the nick of time for Israeli-American relations after a year of increasingly acrimonious exchanges as Washington tried unsuccessfully to cajole Israel into peace talks with Palestinians from the occupied territories.

But all that seemed forgotten after Israel heeded a U.S. request that it not retaliate for Iraqi Scud missile attacks on the Jewish state.

Television pictures of Israelis rushing to sealed rooms and donning gas masks as missiles crashed into Tel Aviv prompted a wave of pro-Israeli sympathy in the United States virtually unparalleled since the 1967 Middle East war.

The big question now is, how long will it last.

"I don't think the problems are past but I think the relationship has improved and will remain a much better relationship," said Shoshana Cardin, chairwoman of the conference of presidents of major Jewish organisations.

**'The United States provides Israel with three billion dollars in aid annually, which successive administrations have found impossible to touch due to the strength of the pro-Israel lobby on Capitol Hill.'**

"I think there will be serious differences in the future as well but the effort to assist the United States and the coalition forces I think will be remembered," she said.

But administration officials strenuously contradict Israeli suggestions that Washington owes Israel a large debt of gratitude for staying out of the war, arguing that if anything the debt is the other way round.

And officials are upset with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for the addition to his

cabinet of the ultra-right Moleket Party, which advocates the removal of all Palestinians from the territories.

They are also troubled by the incarceration without trial of leading Palestinian moderate Sam Nasserbeh.

"Both those moves are extremely troubling. By inviting Moleket into the government Shamir is playing with fire. The relationship cannot survive a mass expulsion of Palestinians," said Adam Garfinkle of the Foreign Policy Research Council.

By bringing what even some

leave Israel even more suspicious of Palestinian intentions than in the past.

He may decide to adopt an Israeli proposal to put more emphasis on peace between the Jewish state and Arab states like Syria, relegating the Palestinian problem and the future of the West Bank to secondary status.

But Baker is not about to change his increasingly intolerant view of Israeli settlements in the territories and is holding up U.S. loan guarantees worth \$400 million to build housing for Soviet immigrants to Israel.

Baker said this week the money would not be released until Israel provided detailed information about its building and settlement plans.

The United States provides Israel with \$3 billion in aid annually, which successive administrations have found impossible to touch due to the strength of the pro-Israel lobby on Capitol Hill.

But with a million Soviet Jews expected to flood into Israel in the next five years, Israel will need billions more in U.S. funds, either in the form of loans or grants.

One Jewish source said Washington was using this fact as a lever to influence Israeli policies in a way that it had been unable to in the past.

"The United States is trying to use this \$400 million to block all future Israeli settlement plans," the source said.

### LETTERS

## Driving through the alphabet

To the editor:

In reference to the article: "Is your car odd or even?" by Maha Addasi published in the Jordan Times on Feb. 7-8, I want to point the following:

I read the article, which was about the odd or even car problem, and I agree with Maha totally, nobody is happy with this new law. It has put a lot of limitations on all of us.

It isn't bad enough that our daily life has come to slow down because of the current Gulf war, but now even our means of transportation has become limited to us.

We happen to be one of the lucky families, I guess, who can afford two cars, and we can be considered even luckier because one car licence plate happens to be even, and the other odd, compared to other families, who may be stuck with all even or all odd, or who may only own one car.

Alright, so I haven't said anything different from what the others have written or said, we know all this by now, so what's new?

Although we've all complained, no one until now has come up with an alternative to this new law!

But again you may ask yourselves, "does, or can such an alternative exist, and if so, what is it?"

Think about it this way. Most of us get up every morning and set off, whether to work, university, or school. So we leave to our destination, our vehicle will remain in the car park, until we require it again, to return back home.

Now think about the average taxi driver. He leaves his destination in the morning, but unlike us he does not have one particular destination. He will drive around endlessly in a search for customers, and he will rarely stop his car, even if he doesn't have any passengers. He will continue to cruise around, until it's time to refill his fuel tank.

So you tell me, you judge, who do you think uses up more fuel? The average person who drives from A to B and back or the taxi driver who drives through the whole alphabet and back?

Maybe something can be done about this, after all, the main issue here is not just about our transportation limitations, but about economising on the use of fuel!

An odd or even victim.

## Watch out! there's a world cop on the loose

By Safwan Bataineh

In a real sizzler of a television appearance, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney recently offered some ghoulish insights into what President Bush's gentler, kinder America has in store for those wretched anthropoids who dare stray from the herd. First he intimated that he and that other paragon of democratic civilisation, Israel, will nuke Iraq if it uses chemical weapons. Then he unabashedly revealed it all. In response to a particularly fiendish question on whether the U.S. will resort to nuclear weapons in order to foreshorten the war, Mr. Cheney said that he will not support such an option

for now and that conventional weapons should suffice for the liberation of Kuwait. Well, I must say that I was immensely relieved by such assuring and thoughtful words. Now all that is needed to prevent a nuclear holocaust is to convince Saddam Hussein to deliberately lose the war.

On second thought, however, I got very angry: the way you might get angry at some bully scouring to endanger your life for no apparent good reason. For that heartless chatter provided a bird's eye view (or what a certain wag has dubbed as a nerd's eye view, in an unsavoury reference to the secretary's personality) of the post-cold war

American psyche: a panorama of moral confusion, bigotry, and self-righteous disregard for others. It provoked both a glimpse into a bleak and dangerous future for those uppity darkeys littering the southern hemisphere, and a deja vu reminder of that awesome retribution exacted not so long ago upon the yellow peril of the East.

Undeterred by other world powers, and feeling morally vindicated by the collapse of communism, America seems to be rushing headlong to settle old scores and mend her bruised ego, ad libbing some expedient banalities about a new world order as she stomps along like a

latter day Gulliver in a land of pygmies. Egged on and abetted by two sage mentors — a Britain yearning for past colonial glories and a conspiratorial Zionist movement — the swaggering cowboy will surely inflict some grievous pain before he is checked by sobriety or unnerved by the queasy redness of blood.

The shape of things to come is already discernable. Unshackled brutality that passes for leadership: coercion and vengeance in the name of law and order; and exploitation disguised as free trade. But lest I be accused of being a modern day Cassandra, decipher for yourselves the gathering omens of bad tidings.

Set aside the cases of Granada, Panama, and Iraq as too obvious, and observe the way America whips industrialised nations into abeyance these days: how Japan, Germany, and Brazil are browbeaten into forking out billions of dollars on demand or into pledging allegiance for the policy du jour. Look closer and you will realise that the U.S. no longer distinguishes between traditional allies, friendly regimes, or a hole in the wall. With the old strategic and geopolitical considerations all but forgotten, the only measure of friendship left is how fast a country responds to America's petulant demands for instant gratification.

Thus China and Syria can become bosom buddies overnight while Jordan is castigated and besieged. Pakistan, on the other hand, is suddenly denied financial aid and technology because its anti-communist stance has become an anachronism and can no longer cover up the fact that Pakistan is a Muslim country with nuclear capabilities and, worst of all, with no diplomatic ties to Israel.

There is not much suspense left in this unfolding story. The passages are trite and the plot is easily predictable. Even the moral of the story is a readily transparent and overworked cliché: absolute power corrupts absolutely.

## Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

row between Amman and Washington surfaced Thursday when the foreign minister, Taher Al Masri, met with the U.S. ambassador, Roger Harrison, upon the request of the ambassador. Informal sources described the meeting as "stormy." The ambassador was believed to have conveyed Washington's "displeasure" over the King's remarks the day before.

"Essentially the ambassador used the same tone and language used by President Bush himself the day before," said one of the sources. What was left unsaid but clearly understood during the meeting, according to the source, was the U.S. was lodging a protest against the King's speech.

Reports that Jordan was considering breaking diplomatic relations with the U.S. were categorically denied by senior officials Friday.

In Washington later Friday, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater also said the administration had not received any indication to the effect that Amman might be studying a break in relations.

The spokesman said the administration was reviewing "the question of U.S. assistance (\$35 million in economic support funds and \$20 million in military sales for fiscal year 1990-91) to Jordan."

Repeatedly asked whether Washington "still" considered Jordan "a neutral" in the Gulf war, Mr. Fitzwater would only contend that "Jordan has declared allegiance to Iraq" and the Kingdom "has taken up (the Iraq) cause."

The spokesman maintained that Jordan was playing a "role in (Iraqi) efforts to split the (U.S.-led) coalition."

At the same time, Mr. Fitzwater also said Washington was "still keeping the lines open in the sense that there will come an end to this war, and afterwards, we'll have to determine a proper relationship."

"The situation is under review, being analysed by our experts in the State Department and other places," he said.

Mr. Fitzwater also implied that the administration believes that there is evidence "of supplies and so forth going to Iraq" in violation of the international sanctions against Iraq. But he conceded, "I don't have any way to quantify that..." And he also appeared to be basing his assumption on media reports.

Both Mr. Fitzwater and State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutweiler were non-committal when asked by reporters whether the administration would try to exert further pressure on Jordan through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the European Community or similar institutions.

"I'm not sure that if the change in our policy that we are reviewing our aid to Jordan will affect that," said Ms. Tutweiler at the State Department.

Mr. Fitzwater said, "it is under review now, and I don't want to prejudge that."

EC sources said in Brussels Friday that the community had no intention to review its economic assistance to Jordan. The community and Jordan have formalised an agreement under which EC would provide \$200 million in grant to the Kingdom to support its imports from EC member states this year.

## Council

(Continued from page 1)

benefit of children and mothers and to ascertain essential health needs.

The director of the United Nations Children's Fund said Friday he expects the allies will grant safe passage to the convoy of dozens of U.N. trucks carrying emergency medicines from Iran to Baghdad.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering and Ambassador Hanmay both announced that their governments had been advised of the planned convoy, and would make arrangements.

James Grant, the UNICEF and the World Health Organisation will send \$500,000 in medical supplies to Iraqi women and children, probably late next week.

The trucks will head from Tehran, the Iranian capital, to Baghdad, carrying mainly pediatric medicines, Mr. Grant said. He said the Iraqi army would already have stockpiled such drugs in advance, addressing concerns that such drugs could be diverted.

He said UNICEF and the WHO are asking the allies to suspend hostilities along the highway as the convoy passes. He noted all members of the U.S.-led multinational coalition have agreed children should be exempt from wartime privation.

"At this moment, what you have is a 'bubble of tranquility', which is that the convoy that will be going down an agreed corridor at an agreed date, and agreed time, both sides will agree to honour that," Mr. Grant said.

"Both sides will have agreed, we expect, in advance, that they will not confuse military operations with this convoy," he added.

## Casualties

(Continued from page 1)

the offensive would be crushed. Another state-run daily, Al Jomhuriya, said Iraqis were eager for the ground battles to begin, "so that the evil enemies can swim in their blood."

Baghdad Radio said U.S. President Bush, French President Francois Mitterrand and British Prime Minister John Major were war criminals "who will be tossed on the ash heap of history."

It said Mr. Mitterrand "has turned a blind eye" to alleged strikes on civilian areas in the city of Basra by French warplanes.

Mr. Major, it said, "is the descendant of those British colonialists who plundered and divided the wealth of peoples."

U.S. Brigadier-General Richard Neal told a news briefing in the Saudi Arabian capital Saturday more than 750 Iraqi tanks have been destroyed since the Gulf war erupted three weeks ago.

Iraq had more than 4,500 tanks in the Kuwait theatre when the war began, including dozens of sophisticated Soviet-made T-72s in the arsenal of its elite Republican Guard.

The guard, heavily dug in in southern Iraq, has been under relentless allied air assault since Operation Desert Storm was launched.

Gen. Neal said the allies had so far destroyed 650 Iraqi artillery pieces and 600 armoured personnel carriers.

Tehran Radio reported allied fighter-bombers pounded Basra in five bombing runs on Saturday.

It said waves of attack on Basra and its suburbs started at 7.20 a.m. (0350 GMT) and each lasted 10 minutes.

The sound of several big explosions in the Basra area was heard over the next two and a half hours in the Iranian city of Khorramshahr, about 40 kilometres west of Basra, it said.

Al Qadisiya said more than 50,000 sorties by allied planes had failed to shake Iraq's confidence of victory.

"Iraq will not conceal the fact that the ground battle would be severe and painful, but the results would be more painful (for them) than they imagined," it said.

"The fact that they (the U.S.-led alliance) try to ignore is that the air raids they launched on Iraq during the past (23) days have not weakened the capability of the Iraqis to confront and inflict destruction on enemy forces," it said.

"Iraqi newspapers Saturday published pictures of President Saddam Hussein chairing a meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), which groups government and military leaders."

## Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Shamir said the missile attacks against Israel would soon end and that Israel's task was to limit the damage it sustained while waiting for the fall of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"We are coming close to the end of this situation..." he said.

A weekend newspaper poll indicated that the majority of Israelis support the government's policy of restraint. But some residents of the area hit Saturday said they would not be able to take the strain much longer.

"This is Russian roulette. People sit here afraid. They don't know when it will land on their heads. It's really frightening. We don't know what to do," one woman told Israel Radio.

A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Iraqi missile attacks have helped cut down on the number of Jews seeking settlement in Israel and underscored the linkage between the Kuwait crisis and the Palestinian problem.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, also urged Arabs to rebel against their governments and force them to withdraw from the U.S.-led coalition arrayed against Iraq.

He spoke in an interview that was aired by Baghdad Radio early Saturday.

Mr. Abed Rabbo arrived in Iraq Friday by road from Amman, with a message from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to President Saddam Hussein. He met with Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, the broadcast said.

It said the discussions focused on "means of coordinating the joint battle against the forces of injustice, tyranny and aggression."

Mr. Abed Rabbo is the highest-ranking PLO official to visit the Iraqi capital since the Gulf war began. The PLO has its military headquarters in Baghdad.

"The missiles have prompted some 90,000 Soviet Jews to leave Israel," Mr. Abed Rabbo said. "This is three times the number of Jews that were emigrating to Israel every month before the war began."

Added Mr. Abed Rabbo: "The Iraqi missiles also are a message that there could be no peace, security or stability in the region without an independent Palestinian state."

# Impeachment of George Bush initiated by Ramsey Clark, Rep. Henry Gonzalez

At a Jan. 15 Washington press conference, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark released a memorandum outlining the legal basis for articles of impeachment of President George Bush. The resolution was introduced the next day by Rep. Henry Gonzalez, before the bombing of Baghdad was begun. Excerpts from Mr. Gonzalez's statement and the full articles appear below.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness, yet with great conviction, that I introduce today a Resolution of Impeachment of President Bush. At a time when our nation is deeply divided over the question of war, we find ourselves on the brink of a world war of such magnitude that our minds cannot fully comprehend the destruction that is about to be leveled. The position we are in is a direct result of the actions of one man and the reactions of another. The Iraqi people are as opposed to war as are the American people — the difference is that the Iraqi people have no choice but to support their country's leader. But the American people not only have the right to oppose and speak out in disagreement with their president, but they have the responsibility to do so if our democracy is to be preserved. Today I exercise this constitutional right and responsibility to speak out in opposition to war in the Middle East and in support of removal of our nation's chief executive.

When I took the oath of office earlier this month, as I had numerous times before, I swore to uphold the constitution. The president's oath was the same — to uphold the Constitution of the United States. We did not pledge an oath of allegiance to the president, but to the constitution which is the highest law of the land. The constitution provides for removal of the president when he has committed high crimes and misdemeanors, including violation of the principles of the constitution. President Bush has violated these principles.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day for our country, and it will be an even sadder day once the fighting begins. President Bush must be stopped — a divided Congress, reflecting a divided country, is no way to conduct a

war. The preservation of lives is at stake, and the preservation of our country — our democracy — is at stake, as well. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and stand up to the president on behalf of the soldiers who will die, the civilians who will be massacred, and the constitution that will be destroyed if this country goes to war in the Middle East.

## House Resolution 34

Impeaching George Herbert Walker Bush, president of the United States, of high crimes and misdemeanors.

Resolved, that George Herbert Walker Bush, president of the United States is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors, and that the following articles of impeachment be exhibited to the Senate:

Articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of Representatives of the United States of America in the name of itself and of all of the people of the United States of America, against George Herbert Walker Bush, president of the United States of America, in maintenance and support of its impeachment against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

## Article I

In the conduct of the office of president of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush, in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of president of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has violated the equal protection clause of the constitution. U.S. soldiers in the Middle East are overwhelmingly poor white, black, and Mexican Amer-

icans, and their military service is based on the coercion of a system that has denied viable economic opportunities to these classes of citizens. Under the constitution, all classes of citizens are guaranteed equal protection, and calling on the poor and minorities to fight a war for oil to preserve the life styles of the wealthy is a denial of the rights of these soldiers.

In all of this George Herbert Walker Bush has acted in a manner contrary to his trust as president and subversive of constitutional government, to the great prejudice of the cause of law and justice and to the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore George Herbert Walker Bush, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

Article III

In the conduct of the office of president of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush, in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of president of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has committed the United States to acts of war without congressional consent and contrary to the United Nations Charter and international law. From August, 1990, through January, 1991, the president embarked on a course of action that systematically eliminated every option for peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis:

Once the president

best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has prepared, planned, and conspired to engage in a massive war against Iraq employing methods of mass destruction that will result in the killing of tens of thousands of civilians, many of whom will be children. This planning includes the placement and potential use of nuclear weapons, and the use of such indiscriminate weapons and massive killings by serial bombardment, or otherwise, of civilians violates the Hague Conventions of 1907 and 1923, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol I thereto, the Nuremberg Charter, the Genocide Convention and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. In all of this George Herbert Walker Bush has acted in a manner contrary to his trust as president and subversive of constitutional government, to the great prejudice of the cause of law and justice and to the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore George Herbert Walker Bush, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

## Article II

In the conduct of the office of president of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush, in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of president of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has violated the U.S. constitution, federal law and the United Nations Security Council, to support belligerent acts against Iraq. In all of this George Herbert Walker Bush has acted in a manner contrary to his trust as president and subversive of constitutional government, to the great prejudice of the cause of law and justice and to the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore George Herbert Walker Bush, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

## Article IV

In the conduct of the office of president of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush, in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of president of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has committed the United States to acts of war without congressional consent and contrary to the United Nations Charter and international law. From August, 1990, through January, 1991, the president embarked on a course of action that systematically eliminated every option for peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis:

Once the president

## Article III

In the conduct of the office of president of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush, in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of president of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has committed the United States to acts of war without congressional consent and contrary to the United Nations Charter and international law. From August, 1990, through January, 1991, the president embarked on a course of action that systematically eliminated every option for peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis:

Once the president

## Initiative

(Continued from page 1)

Tehran has revealed no details of Mr. Rafsanjani's plan but has reiterated that peace must be based on the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and of foreign forces from the region.

The spirit of the efforts and messages of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on seriousness in ending this devastating war peacefully," IRNA quoted Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as saying after welcoming the Iraqi delegation.

The Iranian initiative has been welcomed by the Soviet Union and several non-aligned countries, but has generated little enthusiasm in Washington. Iraq has not commented publicly on the proposal.

Foreign Minister Velayati will visit Germany Feb. 18 and 19 for talks on the Gulf crisis, the Bonn Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

Spokesman Hanns Schumacher said the meeting with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher had been planned since late last year.

"There is interest on both sides in discussing the current situation in the Gulf," he added.

Mr. Genscher's meeting with Mr. Velayati will follow talks Genscher is scheduled to have this week in Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

Iran meanwhile sent 16 tonnes of medicine to Iraq from Iran Saturday under supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), IRNA reported.

It said the shipment, the second in 10 days, was sent in a convoy through Khosravi, the main border crossing.

An ICRC spokesman said in Geneva Thursday that combatants in the Gulf war had been informed of the shipment and had given assurances that the convoy would not be attacked.

## Cheney

(Continued from page 1)

allay Arab criticism, stressed Saturday they did not seek to expand allied Gulf war aims beyond liberating Kuwait to the overthrow of the Iraqi government.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told a news conference after talks with President Hosni Mubarak: "I think there is total agreement between Egypt and Britain that we are not seeking to alter or expand the war aims."

"We are not seeking to alter the boundaries of Iraq, that would not be acceptable. We are not seeking to dictate who should be the government of Iraq. That is for the Iraqis," he said.

Egypt has declared publicly its readiness to cooperate with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein once his troops are removed from Kuwait.

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**Jordan Times**

**JORDAN MARKET PLACE**

# Algeria's Morceli wins mile at Meadowlands Indoor Athletics

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (Agencies) — Noureddine Morceli of Algeria won the 55-metre hurdles in 6.99. That race was held about 10 minutes before the dash.

Dees, who won the sprint last year and was second in the dash Friday night, reversing his finishes of a year ago.

"I was tired, more mentally than physically," Dees said. "It takes a whole day to prepare for a race and you can't do a day's work in 10 minutes. My reaction at the start was slow."

"I'm a hurdler... that's it," Daron Council, winner of the dash at Ottawa, was fourth Friday night in 6.28.

In the hurdles, Dees led from the start and opened a substantial lead midway through the race. He had to withstand a late rally by six-time winner Greg Foster, who was late out of the blocks. Foster was timed in 7.01.

"I hit the fourth hurdle and it stood me straight up," Foster said. "That's what cost me the race."

In the women's sprint and hurdles, the winners were the same as in last year's meet — Lavonna Martin in the hurdle in 7.53 and Michelle Finn in the dash in 6.75. Martin had to come from behind to nip 1981 Olympic bronze medalist Kim McKenzie.

In the dash, Finn, the 1990 national outdoor champion at 100 metres, led all the way in beating Sheila Echols and Gwen Torrance, each timed in 6.77. Echols was given second place.

Diane Dixon, the women's overall leader in this season's Mobil Grand Prix, raced to her fifth straight victory and a meet-record eighth triumph in the women's 400 metres in 52.58.

It was Dixon's sixth consecutive win in this meet, and she has won every 400 metres in the Meadowlands Invitation since 1983, except for 1985, when she was edged in a controversial finish by Valerie Briscoe Hooks.

Debbi Lawrence, 29, clipped nearly seven seconds off the world indoor best in the women's 1,500-metre race walk, clocking 5:54.35. The previous mark of 6:01.15 was set by Maryanne Torrellas in this meet in 1987.

Villanova's Sonia O'Sullivan, who set a world indoor best for the women's 5,000 metres Jan. 25 at Boston, shattered the meet record in winning the collegiate mile in 4:35.19. The old mark of 4:42.93 was set last year by Siobahn Gallagher of Providence.

the women's mile in an easy 4:28.11. Melinte, who set the record of 4:17.14 here last year, led from the half mile mark and cruised unaccompanied over the last five laps.

Andrew Cason, having established himself as the best indoor sprinter this season, rolled to his fourth straight victory Friday night by taking the 55-metre sprint in the Meadowlands Invitation.

Cason, the 1990 indoor champion from Texas A and M, is unbeaten since finishing fourth at Hamilton, Ontario, on Jan. 11 in Ben Johnson's heralded return to competition.

In that race, Cason was called for a questionable false start although he appeared to get out of the blocks legally.

The quick-starting Cason was called for a false start Friday night, but this time, it didn't rattle him.

On the re-start, he again was out first, and maintained the lead throughout, winning in 6.18 seconds.

"The false start didn't bother me," Cason said. "I just waited for the gun, tried to keep my head down and accelerate."

His victory ruined Tony Dees' attempt for a sprint-hurdles double.

Morceli grabbed the lead at 800 metres and finished 35 metres ahead of Ireland's Marcus O'Sullivan, who placed second in 3:56.75.

The 20-year-old Morceli, the world's top-ranked outdoor miler in 1990, would have collected a \$100,000 bonus if he had broken the 3:49.78 mark set by Ireland's Coghlan at this meeting in 1983.

"It is my second race since September," said Morceli, who won the Millrose Games mile last week in 3:53.50. "Now I have the rhythm in my legs."

Morceli, who plans to run again in Stockholm and New York before the World Indoor Championships in March, said he would have broken Coghlan's record with a stronger field.

"I ran the last half by myself and if there had been someone to push me it would have been faster. I feel the record can be broken at some race soon."

World indoor record holder Doina Melinte of Romania won

# Norwegian wins men's cross-country skating

VAL DI FIEMME, Italy (AP) — Bjorn Dahlke, skating hard on the final uphill stretches, beat Gunde Svan by 3.4 seconds to win the men's 15-kilometres freestyle cross-country race Saturday at the World Nordic Ski Championships.

Dahlke, starting just behind Svan and controlling the Swede's intermediate times throughout the race, covered the race in 36 minutes, 57.2 seconds.

It was the first medal in a major championship for the 23-year-old Norwegian, who has been the premier freestyle skier on the World Cup circuit this season.

But Dahlke, who is second in the current World Cup standings after two wins and one second, wasn't confident going into the race.

"During the warmup before the race I didn't think I would have a chance to win," he said. "I slept bad last night. I was nervous."

"And I had a cold last week and felt chest pain. I was worried about my health."

Svan, winner of the opening 30K classic-style race Thursday, said he lost the race on the final two kilometres of the course.

"I had no strength left on the uphill stretches. That's where he beat me," said Svan, the most winning cross-country skier in World Championship history.

Vladimir Smirnov of the Soviet Union, a classic-style expert, finished third, 10.6 seconds behind Dahlke. He had won a silver medal in the 30K.

Italians Giorgio Vanzetta and Mamilio Di Zolt were fourth and fifth, 34.1 and 35.6 seconds behind the winner.

Rounding out of the top 10 were Ottoson of Sweden, Kristen Skjeldal of Norway, Viatcheslav Plaksunov of the Soviet Union and Torngy Mogren of Sweden, who tied for eighth, and Silvano Barco of Italy.

Yves Bilodeau of Canada was the top North American, finishing 26th in 38:42.9.

The race was held in excellent conditions under sunny skies. Only one of the 36 starters failed to finish.

Later Saturday, the Nordic combined ended with the 15K cross-country event.

Norwegian sets new world record

HEERENVEEN, Netherlands (AP) — Norwegian Johann Olaf Koss set a new 5,000 metres world record Saturday at the world speedskating championships.

The 22-year-old defending champion finished the race in 6 minutes 41.73 seconds, compared to the earlier record of 6:43.59 set by compatriot Geir Karstad in Calgary, Canada, in 1987.

"I really did not think about it, not even (about) the other skaters. I wanted to skate for myself," he said after the race.

His record time also placed him in a commanding position in the World Championship provisional standings.

# Johnson tells Lewis 'any time, anywhere'

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — If you're out there Carl Lewis, Ben Johnson says he's got a message for you.

"Any time, anywhere."

"Carl Lewis should know that I'm not afraid to run against him," said Johnson, in Japan to compete in his fourth comeback race after a two-year ban for using steroids.

"I'm not taking anything away from the great runners, but when I'm ready I can do better than anyone," Johnson said.

The 29-year-old Canadian sprinter, stripped of a world record and gold medal after failing a drug test at the Seoul Olympics, is scheduled to race against Lewis in August in Malmö, Sweden.

But at a news conference Saturday, his manager suggested the two may come head-to-head sooner.

"We are hoping that (Malmö) won't be the first race," said Kemeel Azan. "There is a strong possibility of a match-race sooner... in Europe, or possibly even Canada."

Azan refused to elaborate. In the meantime, Johnson says he plans to keep a high profile, racing in 24 meets this season.

"I've been banned for two years, while a lot of great runners in the world were competing," he said. "My intention is to run as many races as possible just to be in competition."

So far, Johnson has won one race and finished second in two others in his comeback, which began on Jan. 11. In the process, he was set two Canadian records — 5.75 seconds over 50 metres and 6.20 seconds in the 55-metre dash.

"No one is talking about Ben going to nightclubs any more, he just sleeps and eats well and works hard," Azan said.

"The stigma of steroids will be with him for a lifetime, but he's hellbent on proving that he can do it without steroids."

In Monday's Osaka Indoor Track and Field meet, Johnson is to race Cuba's Andres Simon, the 1989 world indoor 60-metre champion.

# Cahill, Agassi sweep into San Francisco semifinals

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Darren Cahill upset fourth-seeded John McEnroe 7-6 (7-3), 3-6, 6-3 to move into the semifinals of the Volvo-San Francisco Tennis Tournament.

Cahill will play fellow Australian Wally Masur Saturday night.

Cahill won the last four points to take the first-set tie-breaker. McEnroe won the second set by breaking Cahill in the eighth game and holding serve. McEnroe fought back from a 0-40 deficit in the next game to hold and close out the set 6-3.

McEnroe led 3-1 in the third set but Cahill broke back in the sixth game. The crucial break came in the eighth game when McEnroe was wide on a forehand and flubbed a forehand. Cahill then served out the match.

Top-seeded Andre Agassi easily advanced to the semifinals earlier in the evening with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Kevin Curren after no. 3 Brad Gilbert and no. 7 Wally Masur fought off strong upset challenges.

There were seven service breaks in the Agassi-Curren match. The last came when Agassi broke Curren for the final time in the 10th game of the second set.

Curren was plagued by forehand errors in the first set. Overall, the formidable serve-and-volleyer only got 43 per cent of his first serves in, compared with Agassi's 70 per cent.

Agassi advanced to a semifinal match with Gilbert Saturday.

Gilbert needed more than two hours to turn back Dan Goldie 6-1, 5-7, 6-4. The eighth game went 24 points, the equivalent to six love games, before Gilbert prevailed.

# Volkov reaches Milan final

MILAN (AP) — Eighth-seeded Alexander Volkov defeated fifth-seeded Jakob Hlasek in straight sets Saturday to reach the final of the \$600,000 Milan Indoor ATP Tennis Tournament.

The 23-year-old Soviet player earned his second final in three years in the Italian tournament after surviving a scare in the ninth game of the first set.

Down 0-40 on his serve, Volkov — a baseline player — raided the net and played consecutive winning volleys to annual three break points and move to 5-1. In the following game he broke Hlasek's serve to win the set.

Hlasek, a Swiss ranked 18 in the world, lost his serve again in the second game of the second set, fought back to 3-3 but suffered a decisive break in the 8th game to lose the semifinal match in one hour and 12 minutes.

# Downhill skiing cancelled again on Olympic course

VAL D'ISERE, France (AP) — Jean-Claude Killy, the co-president of the 1992 Winter Olympic Organising Committee, said Saturday that he's not discouraged by the second consecutive cancellation of a men's downhill on the future Olympic course.

"In the past the downhills at the Olympics in Grenoble (1968), Lake Placid (1980) and Sarajevo (1984) were also postponed because of the weather," Killy said. "So we have to stay calm and be well organised."

Saturday, snow and poor visibility canceled a World Cup test of the 1992 Olympic Downhill course, set exactly one year before the gold medal race.

"We scheduled it on the ninth of February in 1992 to be one of the first days of the games," Killy said. "It could be postponed many times but I'm sure the downhill then will be run."

"But the downhill is just one of 57 gold medals next year," he said.

One year before the opening of the games, Killy had been making the rounds of official meetings in Albertville, France, and with the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne, Switzerland.

However when he returned to a competition site, he was greeted by more than enough snow and a cloudy view of the new Olympic downhill.

The course has been criticised for too many tight turns. "The track needs good visibility," Killy said.

Olympic organisers are having their problems beginning with the weather. More 20 centimetres of snow fell over the last 36 hours.

Previous competitions in La Plagne were postponed because of safety concerns on the new bobsled run.

A ski jumping competition in Courchevel last month was also canceled when the platform had to be modified.

The women's downhill ski course in Meribel had to be altered because it was considered too fast.

# IOC president predicts solution on S. Africa near

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — The president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) predicted Friday the question of South Africa's return to the Olympics could be resolved very soon.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, in his first official reaction to South African President F.W. de Klerk's pledge to dismantle apartheid, told Reuters: "Now that we see that important changes can come in South Africa in the near future we expect the final solution can happen very soon on re-admission to the Olympic movement."

Samaranch recalled that the IOC was the first sports organisation to close the door on South Africa because of apartheid.

"We have been following developments carefully all these years. We very much want to normalise relations as soon as possible," he said.

The IOC president referred to the high-level IOC commission set up three years ago for that reason. It will be visiting South Africa next month in a significant move.

Samaranch said: "It will not be going just to realise what is going on but to try very hard to reach a solution that can make it possible to have South Africa back in the Olympic family."

# Lendl, Sampras top field for U.S. pro indoor games

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Ivan Lendl and defending champion Pete Sampras will be the top two seeds in next week's \$1-million U.S. pro indoor tournament.

The other challengers include former champions John McEnroe, seeded fourth, and Tim Mayotte, seeded eighth.

Pairings for the 48-player field were announced Friday with six spots to be filled through a qualifying tournament this weekend. The seven-day pro indoor begins Monday at the spectrum.

Lendl, ranked no. 3 in the world, won the 1986 title against Mayotte and reached the final in 1983 and 1984.

Sampras, ranked no. 5, won his first pro title last year and went on to become the youngest

U.S. Open champion in history. Brad Gilbert, no. 10 in the world and seeded third, will try to reach his first Philadelphia final.

McEnroe, a four-time Philadelphia champion, could face his brother, 16th-seeded Patrick, in a semifinal if both win their early matches.

Jay Berger is seeded fifth, followed by Jim Courier, Michael Stich and Mayotte, a two-time champion.

The remaining seeds are Petr Korda, Derrick Rostagno, Darren Cahill, Mark Koevermans, Wally Masur, Paul Haarhuis, Gary Muller and Patrick McEnroe.

The tournament champion will take home \$135,000.

# Horoscope not received

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

HARRIS-22

"We're out of croissants. How about some bent toast?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NOBAT  
RUPUS  
LONPEL  
UNGOAT

Answer here: HE WAS 44 00 00 00

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EJECT STROKE BLEACH HANGAR  
Answer: He misses his wife's cooking — EVERY CHANCE HE GETS

GOVERN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH

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THE END IN SIGHT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH  
♠ A K 7 3 2  
♥ 7 5 2  
♦ 8 3  
♣ A 8 2

WEST  
♠ Q 5  
♥ 4  
♦ K 10 7 5 2  
♣ Q J 10 7 4

EAST  
♠ J 8 6  
♥ Q 9 3  
♦ J 6 4  
♣ 9 5 5 3

SOUTH  
♠ 10 9 4  
♥ A K J 10 8 6  
♦ A Q 9  
♣ K

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
3 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ Pass  
4 ♥ Pass 4 ♣ Pass  
6 ♥ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

Aggressive bidding tactics seem to be the vogue these days. But if that is your penchant, you had better learn to play the cards well if you don't want to acquire a reputation as a loser.

Neither North nor South had much to spare for any of their actions. By bidding four hearts, North confirmed that four clubs was a cue-bid in support of partner's suit.

A raise to five hearts might have been more prudent than South's decision to jump to slam.

Whatever one might think of the bidding, there was a certain poetry in the way South handled the play. After taking the opening lead in hand performance, declarer cashed one high heart, crossed to the king of spades and finessed the jack of trumps.

Had that lost to the queen, declarer intended winning the club continuation while discarding a spade from hand, then cashing the ace of spades and ruffing a spade high, hoping for a 3-2 split. Dummy's seven of trumps would serve as an entry for two diamond discards on the good spades.

When the trump finesse won, an alternative plan was ready to be tapped for a possibly lucrative over-trick, an important consideration in a pairs contest. Declarer crossed to the ace of spades, discarded a spade on the ace of clubs and finessed the queen of diamonds. That lost, but the slam was still home. Declarer won the diamond continuation with the ace, ruffed a diamond on the table and returned to hand by ruffing a black card to draw the last trump and claim the contract.

# Mutt'n'Jeff

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NOT BAD!

DOUBLE TIME FOR OVERTIME AND THREE WEEKS VACATION WITH PAY! CAN YOU IMAGINE?

SWELL! WHERE?

WHERE?

YEH! WHERE?

OH, I DUNNO! BUT CAN YOU IMAGINE IT?

# Andy Capp

ARE YOU GOING TO SPEND YOUR WHOLE SUMMER WATCHING TV?

NO, I'VE DECIDED TO GO OVER TO OUR LOCAL LIBRARY, AND SIGN UP FOR A COURSE IN FRENCH LITERATURE!

HAHAHAHA!!

NOW MY STOMACH IS GOING TO HURT FOR THE REST OF THE DAY...

# Peanuts

YOU'VE BEEN PICKING ON ME LATELY AND I'M NOT GOING TO STAND FOR IT. I'VE GOT FEELINGS, Y'KNOW!

NOTICE HOW HE MANAGED TO CONTROL HIS FEELINGS UNTIL AFTER SHE BOUGHT THE DRINKS?

# THE Daily Crossword

by Rena M. Campbell

ACROSS

1 Irritate  
5 Resorts  
9 Jibe  
14 Lab gel  
15 Top-notch  
16 Shearer of "The Red Shoes"  
17 Dependable one  
20 "...a poem lovely as..."  
21 Overdue  
22 Meeting: abbr.  
23 Burn  
26 Stew  
27 Seasoner  
30 Help  
32 Certain vertebrate  
36 Exist  
37 Halt  
39 Civil War general  
40 Man-about-town  
43 "Lou Grant"  
44 Draped garments  
45 Farming soil  
46 Ocean floor  
48 Frise  
49 Quarry  
50 Practiced mechanical  
52 Gr. letter  
54 On — with (equal to)  
57 Graceful horse  
59 Come up  
63 Handyman  
66 Soviet cooperative  
67 Equal  
68 Stupid person  
69 Eng. novelist  
70 Spectral  
71 She: Fr.

DOWN

1 Indian prince  
2 "...Rhythm"  
3 Cowardly  
4 Hemingway  
5 Utter  
6 Places for billiards  
7 Pavlova  
8 Heated contest  
9 Sout. Fr.  
10 Gauzy fabric  
11 Ready for use  
12 Cupid  
13 Comodes  
16 Formerly  
19 Tiller  
24 Il. wine center  
26 Tibetan priests  
27 Grand tales  
29 "...by any other name..."  
29 A Helmsley  
31 Old weapon  
32 Cheviots  
34 Il. river  
35 Suspicious  
37 Throat  
38 Careless writer  
41 Left a ship  
42 Conceal  
47 Unheeding  
49 March  
51 Hang in folds  
53 Fix roads  
54 Slightly open  
55 Curtain  
56 Judicial proceedings  
58 To shelter  
60 Hero  
61 Vend  
62 Old lt. family  
64 Sp. cheer  
65 Attempt

## Ailing dollar needs economic rebound, not just intervention

NEW YORK (R) — Day after day, central banks swoop into world currency markets, buying dollars in a desperate effort to pull the currency off record lows.

But while this week's massive bout of intervention has helped, analysts say, nothing short of a U.S. economic rebound will lead to a real dollar comeback.

"It's a tactical move to wrong-foot the market and it's failed. I can't understand why they're throwing good money after bad," said William Ledward of Nomura Securities in London.

Friday, central banks launched a fifth straight day of intervention. Thirteen banks from Europe were joined by the Federal Reserve and the Bank of Canada in the dollar buying.

But all they had to show for the effort was dollar that topped Thursday's record traded low of 1.4467 Deutschmarks — its latest in a series of new bottoms.

The dollar closed Friday at 1.4560 Deutschmarks, up slightly from 1.4550 at Thursday's close. Analysts said stronger medicine was now needed: An

end to the recession, America's first in eight years.

"When we begin to see the bottom of the economy, when things slowly start coming back, the dollar will recover, but it will be piecemeal," said managing director Rayelle Weber Tyler at International Treasury Consulting.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

Analysts say the waves of intervention cannot be fully effective, as the different pace of growth among the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations will prevent the interest rate adjustments needed to back intervention.

Germany, concerned with inflation, has raised its interest rates, while the Federal Reserve (Fed) hoping to curtail the recession, has been pushing U.S. rates lower.

That's bad news for the dollar, as investors turn to currencies like the mark that offer higher returns.

And the dollar has not only hit

record lows against the Deutsche mark, which was created after World War II, but against the Swiss franc as well, and has fallen to 10-year lows against the British pound.

"Historically, if you look back at the dollar during a period of intervention, you do see a turnaround," said currency analyst David Gilmore of McCarthy, Crisanti Maffei. "But part of what turned the market around were adjustments in interest rates."

While the G-7 — the United States, Germany, Japan, Britain, Canada, France and Italy — consult on economic policy, each has its own agenda.

"Domestic concerns in each of the major countries have taken precedence over global G-7 unity or global concern over the dollar," said assistant vice president Carl Amendola at Hypobank.

"The 1.45 mark level has been key, and 1.40 is seen as crucial," said Amendola. "From here on down, all levels are going to be key. The central banks don't stand a prayer."

The dollar's decline against the

yen has not been as marked as its slide against the mark, but dealers expect the Bank of Japan to intervene if the record low of 120.45 yen, hit in January 1988, comes within market reach.

The dollar closed Friday at 127.80, down from 128.40 yen at Thursday's close due to speculative selling overseas and a stronger yen versus the mark.

"I think the Bank of Japan will come in just before 125 yen," said Yomeo Sakai, joint general manager of treasury operations at the Fuji Bank.

And while the Fed continues to pursue a policy of lower interest rates to stimulate the economy, some dealers are growing increasingly optimistic about the dollar's recovery.

"I'm a firm believer that considering the economic numbers we have seen most of the weakness," said John Hickey, senior vice president at Kansallis Banking Group.

"(Fed Chairman Alan) Greenspan has already taken a dramatic move, and I think he'll wait and watch for a while."

## Australia sees time appropriate to campaign for tourism

SYDNEY (R) — Australian tourism officials want to rush out a campaign showing how far Australia is from the Gulf war to lure tourists frightened by threats of attacks.

But the Australian Tourist Commission said Friday it wanted to avoid being labelled opportunistic.

"We have seen the kneejerk reaction and all the cancellations that brought. Now we are hoping to pick up business we may not otherwise have got," an official said.

Australia withheld a television campaign in Britain and deferred one in the United States, because "it was not cost effective to run a glossy campaign and it was inappropriate from a financial and moral point of view," a commission spokesman said.

But senior tourism officials Friday urged the commission to put out the new campaign as they believed Australia would gain from being away from the world's trouble spots, the commission said.

Officials say overseas cancellations of Australian holidays are running at around five per cent but that most people are deferring in order to see how the war turns out.

A spokeswoman for the national airline Qantas said new bookings out of Europe had fallen 50 per cent since the war started on Jan. 17.

Projected travel out of Japan has dropped 40 per cent since the start of hostilities. Officials said many Japanese were worried about what host countries would think of them taking holidays at such a sensitive time.

## U.S. lawmakers fear long recession

WASHINGTON (R) — Despite rosy forecasts from President George Bush and his economic advisers, some U.S. lawmakers this week expressed deep concern that the economy might not rebound at midyear as the White House has predicted.

The president's proposed budget released Monday predicts the current recession will be short and shallow. Bush said Wednesday that the economy was facing only a "temporary setback."

But in budget committee hearings on Capitol Hill, Bush's advisers found considerable unease among lawmakers — whose frequent contact with constituents puts them closer to "where the rubber hits the road," as Senator Jim Sasser put it.

"I hope and pray this is a short, mild recession. But somehow I feel in my bones that that may not be the case... we could be coming up to the precipice and looking over," Sasser, a Tennessee Democrat, said Tuesday after White House budget Director Richard Darman spoke before the Senate budget panel.

Lawmakers applauded the budget itself, saying the seven-point document was the first honest attempt by a U.S. administration to estimate the deficit — a record \$318 billion in fiscal 1991 — that they had seen in years.

But several were worried about whether the U.S. economy could weather a prolonged Gulf war and sceptical about administration plans to pay for the cost of the conflict by passing the hat among the allies.

Others pointed to the rise in the unemployment rate last month to 6.2 per cent, the dollar's fall to new record lows against the Deutsche mark this week, and indications that lower interest rates are not stimulating the economy.

They said consumer, business and banker confidence was falling along with the value of real estate assets which normally act as collateral against the country's huge indebtedness.

"I am fearful, when real estate

values begin to fall no one knows where the real value is," Senator Pete Domenici, a New Mexico Republican, told Darman.

"It does bother me that that is out there and that our financial institutions... are reluctant to lend money. The response to reduced interest rates by the Federal Reserve is not showing itself to be very effective yet," Domenici said.

"In my district, I am told credit cannot be had at any price," Representative Christopher Shays, a Connecticut Republican, said during a House of Representatives budget committee hearing Thursday.

"There is fear... bankers are fearful," Representative Mike Parker of Mississippi said.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady said the administration expected some of the present economic uncertainty to fade as the public got accustomed to the Gulf war.

"When you have a situation such as war, nobody knows what that means. War is a terrifying and unknown thing," Brady told the House committee.

"Now that it is clear that the war is where it is, people have an understanding of it... I think you are going to see that confidence turn around and that will affect bankers, borrowers and consumers," Brady said.

Bush's chief economist Michael Boskin also said the war was unlikely to have a major economic impact as long as oil prices stay low and Iraq does not damage Gulf oil facilities.

Much of the attention at the budget hearings focused on whether U.S. banks, which have been suffering record failures, were heading down the same slippery slope travelled by now-bankrupt savings and loans institutions in the 1980s.

William Seidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, said in a panel that U.S. banks were in a far better capital position and were better supervised than the

thrifts had been.

But he said banks would recover only when the economy did. And he warned that banking system changes must be approached carefully so as not to further jeopardise lending ability and turn recession into depression.

According to private economists, the United States may not succeed quickly in battling the recession.

Hamstrung by a mountain of debts piled up in the 1980s, Washington has found that the usual weapons to fight a downturn — lower interest rates and higher government spending — may not work as well this time.

"It's going to be harder to climb out of the recession because of the overleveraged condition of the economy," said David Jones of Aubrey G. Lanston and Company.

Economists have said the government cannot spend much more to fight the recession because its budget deficit is already so big. The Federal Reserve, the nation's central bank, can cut interest rates further to try to boost growth, but it cannot force debt-burdened consumers and companies to borrow or cautious banks to lend.

"There's too much debt... and not enough income to pay for it," said Philip Braverman, chief economist at DKB Securities.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan warned last week a prolonged Gulf war would increase the risk of a deep recession.

"The risk is there, and I think the risk obviously would increase," he told the House Banking Committee.

Hopes for a short, shallow recession were "shot down like a Scud" by news of a big jump in unemployment last month, said Ward McCarthy, managing director of Stone and McCarthy Research Associates.

The unemployment rate was 6.2 per cent, its highest level in 3 1/2 years, jolted the Federal Reserve into cutting its key dis-

count rate for the second time in six weeks.

Economists saw the surprise Federal Reserve action as a tacit acknowledgement that it has so far fought a losing battle against the recession.

The Federal Reserve has been trying to pump up the economy since about the middle of last year, but its efforts have been stymied by the reluctance of banks to lend more.

Forced by falling property prices to write down past loans, banks have shied away from extending new credits. Banks' reluctance to lend means lower interest rates are not having as much of an effect boosting the economy as they had in the past.

Economists expect the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates further as it tries to coax banks to lend more by lowering their cost of funds.

The Bush administration is trying to fight the credit crunch through changes in banking regulations it hopes will boost banks' profits and encourage them to lend more.

One measure under consideration would allow banks to value real estate loans based on their long-term worth, rather than on their worth now, at a time of depressed property prices.

"No one of these regulatory changes is in and of itself going to turn around the economy," Deputy Treasury Secretary John Robson admitted.

But when they are combined, the changes will help encourage banks to start lending again, although they will not be in place for a few months, he said.

Given the constraints at home, economists said the best chance for a recovery may lie in an increase in U.S. exports.

But hopes for export-led growth received a knock last week when Germany raised interest rates. The higher rates will dampen growth in Europe and this recession is going to last longer than many had hoped for," Lanston's Jones said.

## Moscow hikes alcohol prices in restaurants

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow city council raised prices of alcohol in the city's restaurants and cafes by 200 per cent Friday in a move to increase funds for social services, the newspaper Izvestia reported.

The rises, which mean that the price of an average bottle of vodka will soar from about 10 to 30 roubles (\$18 to \$54 at the official exchange rate), were introduced amid rumours of planned increases over a wide range of food and other goods.

The increases do not affect prices in state liquor shops, where vodka and wine are often in short supply and where long lines form daily, especially before weekends and holidays.

Izvestia quoted an official of the city council, controlled by liberals and radicals strongly critical of the long-ruling Communist Party, as saying the extra income "will be used for the social protection of the underprivileged."

The newspaper said the prices of beer would also be raised in both shops and restaurants. A half-litre bottle of the popular Zhigulovskoye brand, which now costs 80 kopecks (\$1.45), will cost 1.20 roubles (\$2.18) from Saturday.

## China raises spectre of renewed inflation

BEIJING (R) — The spectre of renewed inflation has returned to haunt China, recalling memories of the panic buying that helped to spark social unrest in 1989.

The main culprit is inefficiency in the economy, said a report from the State Statistical Bureau.

"Social demand is gradually recovering, production is increasing by the quarter, but making progress in improving economic efficiency has been slow," the Economic Information Daily said.

"Within economic development, the potential for inflationary pressure has increased," it said in an analysis based on the bureau's report.

Loss-making state enterprises continued to make products that no one wanted to buy, Western diplomats said.

Even efficient industries were hampered by chronic shortages of energy and raw materials and by a transport network that has trouble moving goods to where they are needed.

If demand picks up supply may not be able to keep pace, resulting in higher prices, the diplomats said.

"The old problem of low economic efficiency has not yet been changed. Add to that the new pressure of potential inflation, and our economic task will still be arduous," the Economy Daily commented.

Fierce inflation — approaching 30 per cent in cities — in 1988 and the first half of 1989 contributed to public anger at communist authorities that resulted in pro-democracy demonstrations and unrest.

The army crushed the challenge to the party's leadership in June 1989 when it cleared Beijing's Tiananmen square with tanks and guns.

Economic authorities clamped down on inflation with an austerity programme that brought price rises down to two per cent last

year while stifling economic growth.

"People in government are talking about eight per cent inflation this year, which people can live with," a Western diplomat said.

"If it goes over 10 per cent, however, that's when you get into trouble with rekindled inflationary expectations starting massive demand that can't be met with increased supply," he noted.

"If they can manage inflation they could have a very good year. If they don't manage it correctly it could be disastrous since there's so much cash in the system," he added.

Diplomats said they anticipated a sharp tightening of credit to try to head off inflation.

The government relaxed credit last year to stimulate the economy, resulting in a huge amount of new lending.

Much of the new lending was not used productively, however. "Funds were thrown out with reckless abandon... but the funds were stagnant," said Economic Information Daily, adding that credit often did not go where it would do the most good.

Another key problem was China's lack of a system for rewarding good enterprises and letting bad companies fail, it said, quoting a state statistical bureau.

Many poorly managed enterprises were simply taking new loans in order to pay off old debts, it said.

The State Statistical Bureau was encouraged by the upturn in demand, however, citing a 10.1 per cent increase in investments in fixed assets by state-owned enterprises in 1990.

It pointed to investment in 200 key construction projects. Total wages of Chinese workers rose by a real 11.5 per cent in 1990 over the year before, the biggest increase since 1987, the official New China News Agency said.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, February 9, 1991  
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	662.0	666.0
Pound Sterling	1317.0	1324.9
Deutschemark	454.6	457.3
Swiss franc	332.2	335.4
French franc	135.5	134.3
Japanese yen (for 100)	518.4	521.5
Dutch guilder	403.7	406.1
Swedish crown	121.0	121.7
Italian lira (for 100)	60.4	60.8
Belgian franc (for 10)	220.8	222.1

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## Interflug closes after sell-off fails

BERLIN (R) — The East German airline Interflug, once the flag carrier of the now defunct communist government, was closed down Friday after the failure of plans to sell it intact.

"It's not possible to privatise Interflug as an independent, internationally operating airline," said Wolf Schoede, spokesman for the Treuhanderanstalt privatisation agency which owns 8,000 state-owned companies. "Flight service is being shut down."

The demise of Interflug GMBH, which now faces liquidation, seems set to hand the West German carrier Deutsche Lufthansa A.G. a monopoly over air routes in the recently United Nation.

Lufthansa declined to comment on the closure but said Treuhander had asked it to liquidate Interflug with its 2,900 workers and 25 mostly obsolete aircraft.

Last year Lufthansa was stopped from buying a 26 per cent stake in Interflug by the Federal Cartel Office. But attempts to sell the airline intact to other bidders failed, with front-runner British Airways pulling out last month.

West European companies complain they are blocked from buying into state-owned companies in eastern Germany because West German firms want to protect their markets.

But the Bonn economics ministry said in a statement the Interflug decision did not mean Germany was running a closed shop. Interflug had already begun running up huge losses after economic and monetary union with the west in July cut subsidies and converted its costs into hard marks from soft east marks.

Treuhander said these losses soared last month when the outbreak of the Gulf war discouraged air travel.

"Daily losses increased dramatically at Interflug," it said, giving no figures. Before the Gulf war, industry sources had estimated losses at one million marks (\$685,000) a week.

The Bonn transport ministry wanted to sell the airline to Lufthansa but was thwarted by the cartel office which argued this would give the West German carrier a monopoly.

According to industry sources, Lufthansa Chairman Heinz Ruhnau had told the cartel office the airline would simply take over Interflug after it went bankrupt.

"We'll simply let Interflug fly into the wall," Ruhnau was quoted as saying by one source.

Company officials said that Interflug will continue scheduled flights until details of a shutdown order by Germany's privatisation agency have been worked out later this month.

In a statement carried by the East German news agency ADN late Friday, an Interflug spokesman said concrete plans for wrapping up flight service would be finalised on Feb. 20.

"Flights will be continued for the moment. Reservations and ticket purchases remain possible," said the spokesman for the company.

## South Africa says foreign finance vital for peaceful reform

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa said Friday unemployment would make the country ungovernable by the mid-1990s unless international banks resumed lending and economic growth returned.

But Finance Minister Barend du Plessis and central bank governor Chris Stals said they would continue tight monetary policy in preference to job-creating inflationary measures for the black majority, suffering around 50 per cent unemployment.

Du Plessis told a briefing for reporters: "Unless we can now very rapidly increase growth of this economy by the mid-1990s it will be virtually impossible, if not totally impossible, for any government to govern this country on account of the number of unemployed."

Stals told the briefing the outlook for Africa's most industrialised economy remained "bleak" despite an improvement in international financial relations due to apartheid reforms.

Stals said he was determined to persist with a policy of financial discipline. "Foreign investors are taking a more positive view of the South African situation... but it will take some time to restore (domestic) business confidence."

International banks cut off new credit to the country in 1985 amid economic upheaval and a black anti-apartheid uprising, and South Africa was forced to set limits on debt repayments.

The country has had to sacrifice economic growth, keeping out much-needed imports, to generate current account surpluses from which to service a \$20 billion foreign debt.

The economy recorded real growth of only about one per cent annually in the 1980s and actually shrank one per cent in 1990.

Stals, governor of the Reserve Bank, foresaw some decline in steep interest rates during 1991 but said the battle against 14 per cent inflation would continue to guide economic policy.

The Reserve Bank set its discount rate at 18 per cent in 1989 when commercial banks set prime

rates at 21 per cent.

Stals said the bank had kept contacts on world capital and money markets in "an extremely difficult time. These friends are now coming back to us as active lenders and investors."

He said short term trade finance was more freely available in Europe.

But unless South Africa boosted its foreign reserves and regained full international financing "there is no way that we can begin to reflate this economy for political, social or whatever reasons, unless we really want to make this country very, very vulnerable to hyper-inflation," Du Plessis said.

The economy would resume growth late in 1991 provided state fiscal discipline continued and "we see the earliest possible restoration of our international financial relations," Du Plessis said.

Forty per cent of the 1991/92 budget to be announced on March 20 would be social spending but this was still inadequate to improve conditions for the 28 million black majority.

The United States and the 12-nation European Community say they will lift or review sanctions when race classification is repealed this year. Japan has also praised President F. W. De Klerk's reforms.

One U.S.-based sanctions monitoring group says sanctions have cost Pretoria \$27 billion over 20 years.

Anti-apartheid groups acknowledge sanctions have hit blacks hardest, eliminating tens of thousands of jobs through disinvestment and restricted access to Western markets.

Stals said De Klerk's reforms had improved prospects of regaining access to International Monetary Fund (IMF) lending. "Bankers will feel much more comfortable if they know we have a backstop facility like the IMF," he said.

He suggested prospects for a resumption of ties with the World Bank had improved: "That is the kind of capital we need."

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# Lithuania, defying Gorbachev, stages poll on independence

VILNIUS, Soviet Union (R) — Tens of thousands of Lithuanians went to polling stations Saturday to record their views on independence in a ballot declared illegal by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Described by the rebel Baltic republic's nationalist-dominated parliament and government as "an opinion poll," the informal referendum is almost certain to produce a massive display of support for the idea of an independent Lithuania.

Gorbachev, determined to hold the Soviet Union together in the face of mounting political and economic crisis, insists that Lithuania and its neighbours Latvia and Estonia could only break away after a long process.

Pro-government newspapers in Vilnius, scene of a bloody assault by the Soviet army last month on the republic's television centre in which 13 people died, called the ballot a turning point in Lithuanian history.

"A step towards our great

aim," a headline declared, referring to the policy of the administration of President Vytautas Landsbergis to restore Lithuania to its pre-World War II status of an independent republic.

Like Latvia and Estonia, Lithuania was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940. Moscow and local Communists say this was the will of the people at the time, but the present leaders of the three republics say they were forcibly annexed.

The poll, likely to be boycotted by a large section of Lithuania's Russian minority which fears discrimination under a strong nationalist government, is being held under the watchful eye of the Soviet military.

For the past few days, Lithuanian government officials say, Soviet military helicopters have been dropping leaflets produced by an anti-independence coalition, led by pro-Moscow Communists, calling on people not to vote.

The army command for the

Baltics has announced what it calls staff manoeuvres to begin at midnight Saturday, sparking charges from Landsbergis that the military is seeking to create "an atmosphere of intimidation."

An army spokesman said the exercises would be held outside cities and would involve only "the minimum necessary number of troops and equipment," the independent Baltfax News Agency reported Friday.

In the poll, voters are asked to answer "yes" or "no" to the question: "Do you agree that the Lithuanian state should be an independent, democratic republic?"

Soviet officials say the poll will create new tension between the Lithuanian majority and the Russian and Polish minorities. Under parliamentary rules regulating the poll, 2.75 million people are entitled to take part.

Gorbachev has ordered a referendum throughout the Soviet Union through the Soviet Union March 17 on whether the nation should be maintained

"as a renewed federation of equal sovereign republics," the Baltic republics as well as Georgia and Armenia have said they will not participate.

After elections last year, Armenia has a non-Communist administration. Georgia is led by fervent nationalists who are accused, even by many Soviet liberals, of waging a fierce campaign against minorities.

The United States Friday criticised Gorbachev for declaring a Lithuanian ballot on independence illegal and said it would not help towards a peaceful solution of the Baltic problem.

"We do not believe that President Gorbachev's decree helps to solve the situation in the Baltics," said U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

"His saying that the referendum should not happen or cannot happen doesn't go towards resolving this situation peacefully," she said.

## 13 killed in Punjab fighting

AMRITSAR (Agencies) — At least thirteen people were killed in fighting between Sikh militants and police Thursday and Friday, police and news agencies said. The dead included a journalist working for a newspaper critical of the separatists.

Also Friday, a militant took a train to avoid capture by security forces.

Senior Superintendent of Police Sanjiv Gupta said two Sikh militants riding a motorcycle along the Amritsar-Ludhiana road were killed in a gun battle with police. Three times in the head Friday as he stood outside his home.

Gupta said Verma was outside his home in Bazar Lohara, a crowded commercial area in downtown Amritsar, when the militants fatally wounded him.

Amritsar is a sacred city to the Sikh community, and is the centre of a violent secessionist Sikh campaign.

Verma worked as a correspondent for Hind Samachar, a group of three newspapers published in the city of Ludhiana, 75 kilometres southeast of Amritsar.

Kumar Chopra, chief editor of Hind Samachar said Verma was the 60th person in his organisation killed by Sikh militants.

Chopra said those killed included Lala Jagat Narain — his father and the founder of the newspaper group. Narain was killed by militants in 1981 after he wrote articles criticising the secessionist movement.

Also Friday, a civilian was killed in crossfire between security forces and Sikh militants near Chak Sikander village in Majitha district, 25 kilometres north of Amritsar. Press Trust of India reported.

It said Barakat Masiha was shot to death when police traded fire with three Sikh militants after the militants were ordered to stop for a security check.

The United News of India, an independent news agency, said militants shot and killed two other people in Amritsar Friday. It did not elaborate.

In Ludhiana, a kidnapped civilian's bullet-riddled body was discovered Friday. United News said. It said Joginder Singh was kidnapped Thursday from his home in Bhagwanpura village, near Kapurthala district, about 60 kilometres southwest of Amritsar.

News agencies reported that four other people were killed in clashes Thursday night and Friday, but no details were available.

## Human rights 'deteriorating day by day' in Soviet Union — activists

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Human rights activists accuse President Mikhail Gorbachev of abandoning reform and trying to retain power "at any price, even by means of restoring a totalitarian system."

Reformers warn of "creeping counterrevolution" that could destroy such gains of Gorbachev's perestroika as a free press and freedom of assembly.

Helinski Watch, a monitoring group, said the Jan. 13 military

have died at the hands of Soviet troops in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tadzhikistan and Uzbekistan.

"To my mind, they will put fewer people in prison, but it has been seen already that they are killing more people," dissident Sergei Grigoryants said in an interview.

Gorbachev is under pressure from Communist Party conservatives to be tougher on autonomy-minded republics and to preserve economic collapse, ethnic strife and political turmoil.

Rights activists point to the

resignation Dec. 20 of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and the departures of other reform-minded officials as the first sign of a reactionary turn by Gorbachev. Shevardnadze warned in his resignation speech of a slide toward dictatorship.

"The situation is very bad and it deteriorates day by day, because now it's the final struggle for property and power in the Soviet Union," said Lev Timofeyev, a campaigner for human rights.

REUTERS SOVIET RUS chief Vladimir Kryuchkov Friday disclosed a shake-up in the top ranks of the security police

## Man confesses to murder of Brazilian union leader

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A hired gunman confessed to assassinating a union leader who defended rural workers against rich landowners in the remote Brazilian Amazon, police said Friday.

Jose Serafim Sales told police he shot Expedito Ribeiro de Souza last Saturday near De Souza's home, a police spokesman told Reuters by telephone from Belem, in northeastern Brazil.

Police said they arrested Sales and were bringing him to Belem Friday.

The murder drew comparisons with the 1988 killing of rubber tappers union leader Chico Mendes in the Amazon state of Acre.

## Chile commission blames state for rights abuses

SANTIAGO (R) — A Chilean government commission has, for the first time, held the state responsible for the disappearance of hundreds of people and for thousands of human rights violations, government officials said Friday.

By establishing state responsibility for the 1970s rights violations, the commission's report would allow the authorities to give benefits to relatives of the missing people and compensate the victims of abuses.

The results of the nine-month investigation by the Commission on Truth and National Reconciliation will be made public in March by President Patricio Aylwin, along with possible reparations.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the report establishes responsibility for a systematic violation of rights, including the murder or disappearance of 1,800 leftist opponents of the Pinochet regime. It does not, however, assign blame or make accusations, they said.

The report has already come under fire from human rights activists who say it only goes half-way and covers up the names of the military officers involved in the abuses.

General Augusto Pinochet ended his 16-year regime and handed over the government to Aylwin last March but is still army commander-in-chief.

As Aylwin received the 2,000-page document in the presidential palace, riot police used tear gas and water cannon to disperse a demonstration outside by more than 500 mothers, wives and sisters of missing Chileans.

The women carried portraits of their missing relatives and banners saying, "Where are they?" Witnesses said four women were injured in the clashes and at least two were arrested as the protesters tried to put out a flame on an independence monument opposite government house.

The moral conscience of the nation demands that the truth be known, however painful it may be, so that justice can be done where possible," Aylwin said in a nationally televised address as he received the report.

But a top Aylwin aide, who asked that his name be withheld, said Friday that the civilian government would not prosecute rights abusers or revoke an amnesty covering rights violations prior to 1978.

## Gorbachev decrees new broadcasting company

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Friday named Leonid Kravchenko, accused by liberals of reviving censorship in his current post as chief of state radio and television, as head of a powerful new broadcasting company.

A presidential decree announcing formation of the company said it would take over all functions and funding of the present Gosteleradio, which was effectively a Ministry of Radio and Television and nominally subordinate to parliament.

The new company was created against a background of growing controversy over state control of broadcasting and Kravchenko's role since he was appointed head of Gosteleradio last November.

At the same time, the Communist Party is trying to recover the authority it has lost over the past two years and there have been signs that Gorbachev is ready to row back on some liberal reforms.

Many television journalists as well as liberal and radical political figures say Kravchenko, a member of the party Central Committee and former head of the Soviet News Agency (TASS), has brought back strict political supervision.

They say he and his close aides, all party members, ensured that television viewers saw only the official view of army and police actions in the Baltic republics of Lithuania and Latvia last month which left 21 dead.

## Colombian rebels accept peace talks

BOGOTA (R) — Left-wing Colombian guerrillas, waging a fierce offensive, offered a glimpse of peace Friday by conditionally accepting a government offer of direct talks.

"We accept direct dialogue between the government and (the guerrillas)," rebel leader Manuel Perez said in a taped statement sent to a Bogota radio station.

However, Perez, leader of the National Liberation Army (ELN), said the peace talks should begin in Colombia with full security guarantees for the guerrilla leaders, creating a possible obstacle.

The government has offered direct peace talks with the guerrillas but proposed they take place in Spain, Mexico or Venezuela rather than in Colombia.

President Cesar Gaviria has said his policy is to allow the armed forces to operate in all of Colombia and does not want to allow the guerrillas a haven in Colombia where they can stay during peace talks, safe from army attacks.

Perez, who said he was also speaking for the rebel Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces, said the talks could, if necessary, move to another country at a later stage.

The two groups launched scores of attacks this week to protest their exclusion from a National Assembly which began meeting Tuesday to reform Colombia's constitution.

The guerrillas ambushed army patrols, blew up oil and electricity facilities and burned dozens of vehicles. More than 60 people were killed in fighting this week.

An urban guerrilla cell fire-bombed six buses in the capital Bogota Friday morning, police said.

Interior Minister Humberto De La Calle offered Friday to take part personally in peace talks.

Despite the rebel attacks in and near the capital, De La Calle said the rebels were not close to seizing power and would lose if they launched an urban offensive.

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## Shooting reported in S. African homeland

BISHO, South Africa (R) — Soldiers fought a long gunbattle in the military headquarters of the coup-prone, nominally independent South African homeland of Ciskei Saturday and unconfirmed reports said people had been killed.

A radio reporter in Ciskei, asking not to be named, said by telephone the shooting could have been part of an attempt to topple military ruler Oupa Gqozo.

"We have heard, but this is not official confirmed, that quite a lot of people have been killed," he said.

Brigadier Gqozo is out of the country, in Johannesburg or Pretoria, but it seems he is still in charge. We are still broadcasting normally. No one has tried to take us over.

The reporter said there was prolonged shooting inside the military headquarters, a barracks on the outskirts of the small town of Bisho, from about 7 a.m. (0500 GMT).

A corporal who declined to give his name said by telephone from the headquarters: "There are many dead." The call was terminated before he could say any more.

A government official, speaking from her home, said she heard several bursts of gunfire from inside the barracks.

It seems the shooting is among the forces themselves. Maybe someone is trying to take over," she said.

A Reuters reporter said Bisho's normally bustling streets were almost deserted Saturday. Nervous soldiers stood guard near the radio station and Gqozo's residence.

Heavily armed soldiers ordered three reporters to leave the town. "We will shoot you if we see you here again," one soldier said.

Ciskei, on the southern Indian Ocean coast, is one of four tribal homelands given independence under South Africa's apartheid policy but not recognised internationally.

Gqozo and three other army officers took power in a coup almost a year ago. One of Gqozo's three colleagues was killed in an alleged counter-coup late last month and Gqozo has fired another.

He said last week he wanted the region's senior judge rather than the remaining military council member, commandant S.S. Pita, to take over if anything happened to him.

Gqozo claimed last month he had prevented an attempted coup by Charles Seb, brother and one-time security chief of former President Lennox Sebe.

Charles Seb was shot and killed by Gqozo's troops on Jan. 28, and Gqozo has since accused the African National Congress, South Africa's main black opposition group, of plotting to topple him military regime.

## Slovenia's move 'hastens' Yugoslavian disintegration

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Yugoslavia's deep ethnic and political divisions widened further when two of its six republics boycotted talks aimed at saving the crumbling Balkan federation.

The republics of Croatia and Slovenia refused Friday to appear for a third round of talks on the nation's future, and Slovenia announced legal steps to secede from Yugoslavia.

A terse statement issued after Friday's failed talks said no agreement could be reached but a fourth round was scheduled for Feb. 13.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman refused Friday to fly to Belgrade, the capital of the nation and the Republic of Serbia. He was boycotting the meeting to protest an anti-Croatian rally held outside the building where the talks were to take place.

Slovenia's representative Milan Kucan walked out of the talks, citing "impossible conditions" created by the rally of some 5,000 people, mostly women.

"Down with the fascist Croatian leadership," people in the crowd shouted. "Long live the Yugoslav army."

The Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug, quoted the head of the federal presidency as saying he had a constitutional duty to take "all measures at its disposal to prevent the onset of chaos."

"We have a complete collapse of the country and the impossibility of reaching political agreement," Borisav Jovic was quoted as saying.

"We have to take those mea-

sures which are in our jurisdiction," he said. "If not, we should be replaced because we cannot be responsible for the situation."

It was not clear exactly what Jovic, an ethnic Serb, had in mind. But the federal presidency is the nominal commander of the armed forces.

The first meeting of regional leaders was held on Jan. 10. Croatia and Slovenia left the second round on Jan. 31 to protest military intervention in politics.

In Ljubljana, Slovenian Premier Lojze Peterle announced that on Feb. 20 the republic's parliament will pass a law annulling all federal legislation. The move will formally proclaim the republic's secession.

Peterle also said Slovenia will now concentrate on seceding peacefully rather than seeking ways to stop the disintegration of the country. Slovenia and Croatia both advocate Yugoslavia's transformation into a loose confederation.

Communist-ruled Serbia has strongly opposed any plans to change the current federal system, and is backed by the pro-Communist, mostly Serb army officer corps.

Tanjug quoted Peterle as saying Slovenia's desire to secede is motivated mainly by economic.

The small northern republic bordering Austria and Italy is Yugoslavia's richest, and objects to the socialist central planning advocated by Serbia.

## Disease, famine and war threaten 20 million Africans

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Disease and famine exacerbated by civil war threaten 20 million Africans, and millions could die in 1991 unless the world launches a billion-dollar relief campaign, the director of UNICEF has said.

Ethiopia, Sudan, Angola, Mozambique, Liberia and Malawi are the nations most imperilled, said James Grant, the director of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"It is clear that in major areas of Africa, we are reaching a degree of crisis, looking ahead in the weeks and months, that will rival that of late 1984 and 1985," Grant said.

The Ethiopian famine of 1984-85 shocked the world when pictures of fly-tormented, emaciated children with bloated bellies were widely circulated.

The public responded with an outpouring of money and food aid that averted a worsening catastrophe.

However, many private relief agencies say that the continuing civil wars, famine, drought and privation in Africa has induced "donor fatigue" in a public reluctant to respond to annual appeals for the same countries.

Grant noted that the attention of the world also has been diverted by the Gulf war, the Soviet Union's civil strife, hardship in Eastern Europe and other international problems.

"There are more than 20 million people in Africa moving into an urgent situation where millions of them could die in 1991," he said.

"It is a major crisis that requires a major response from the international community. For the U.N. to not be concerned with this kind of crisis would be obscene," he said.

As early as October, Richard Reid, UNICEF's regional director for the Middle East and North Africa told the Associated Press, "I think we have the makings of a major humanitarian disaster, a bombshell disaster, that hasn't caught the attention of the world."

Reid said that the drought in southern Sudan is worse than the one that killed more than 250,000 in 1988.

"It is probable that unless there is focused and solid and rapid intervention, we could lose at least 250,000, and it could go up to the estimated 1 million that died in 1984," he said.

UNICEF is appealing for \$110 million in non-food aid for the hardest-hit countries.

The U.N. World Food Programme announced that drought in the Horn of Africa is so severe, complicated by civil war in Somalia, Ethiopia, and neighbouring Sudan, that crops conditions are as bad as in 1984-85.

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## Column

### Russia honours a saint

MOSCOW (AP) — The bones of a Russian saint, desecrated by Communists in the 1920s and rediscovered last year, are being returned to their hallowed resting place in a majestic journey symbolic of the church's revival. The first leg of the journey began Thursday, as dozens of priests in elaborate robes and hundreds of Russian Orthodox believers bearing candles processed through Moscow carrying relics of St. Seraphim, Soviet media reported. The sacred bones, held in a shining brass reliquary, came by train from Leningrad and were borne by the procession from the railway station to the Cathedral of the Epiphany several kilometres away. They will remain in the cathedral until July, when church leaders plan a much longer procession through the countryside. The eventual destination is a convent at Deyevskoye, near Nizhni Novgorod — formerly named Gorky — about 250 kilometres east of Moscow. St. Seraphim was born in 1759 to a prosperous merchant family but renounced his wealth for prayer early in life. According to legend, he spent 25 years in solitary contemplation in a forest hut and shared his food with bears. Later, Seraphim became renowned as a wise mystic monk and faith healer. He founded the Deyevskoye Convent near his own monastery at Sarov, where he was buried in 1933.

### Mexicans to pay more for cigarettes

MEXICO CITY (R) — At just under 60 cents a pack cigarettes in Mexico are among the cheapest anywhere in the Americas. But smokers will soon be paying more to support their habit. The government news agency Notimex said that cigarettes were being removed from the so-called "basic basket" of consumer goods subject to government price controls. The measure, effective immediately, is expected to raise prices faster than smoke rises from a burning butt, nearly doubling the cost of the most popular U.S.-brand cigarettes made in Mexico. Government officials decided to remove cigarettes from the "basic basket" because they are "a luxury product" as well as "extremely harmful" to your health, Notimex said. The lifting of price controls follows a recent move to ban smoking in public places in Mexico City. The ban is still largely ignored, however.

### Oxygen to go on sale in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (R) — A group of ecologists have come up with a possible answer to Mexico City's suffocating smog — oxygen for sale. Alfonso Cipres Villareal, head of the Mexican Ecologists Movement, said the group plans to put up 10 booths on street corners around the city. Thirty-second shots of oxygen will sell to anyone in need of a pick-me-up for \$1.75. "It could make a magnificent business," he said. Ecologists say the dirty brown pall of smog that has blanketed Mexico City this winter is probably the worst in the city's history. Some commuters have taken to wearing face masks. Cipres Villareal said newspaper vendors and traffic police officers, exposed to the worst pollution, would be entitled to free oxygen in exchange for watching over the dispensing apparatus.

### Former teacher sues preschool child who kicked her

VENTURA, California (AP) — A preschool teacher is suing the parents of a 5-year-old boy, seeking \$25,000 for injuries she claims the child inflicted by kicking her in the ankle. Lynne M. Fava was a teacher at the Phoenix Ranch School in Simi Valley when she was kicked on March 2 while trying to control the boy "throwing a temper tantrum," according to the lawsuit. "He caught her right at the wrong place," said attorney David R. Ellison. "She's undergone two surgeries already. He caused severe damage to the foot and nerves." The boy's parents could not be located for comment. Phoenix Ranch, a private school for children of preschool age through second grade, would only confirm that Fava quit last year and that the boy had graduated. The suit said the boy's parents are "vicariously liable" for his actions. Ellison said California law makes parents responsible when a minor's "willful misconduct" injures someone else.

### STATEMENT

#### In view of the call by His Hashemite Majesty King Hussein Ibn Talal

The J.B.A. announces that in consideration of the difficult circumstances that our beloved Jordan is currently undergoing, especially in view of the American administration's intention to review aid to Jordan; the J.B.A. promises His Majesty to work towards finding alternative resources in cooperation with all the popular and economic forces in Jordan.

God bless His Majesty and our beloved country.

**Jordan Businessmen's Association**

## Angola talks fail, Luanda pledges continued reforms

LISBON (R) — The Angolan government pledged Saturday to go ahead with political reforms despite the failure of the latest round of peace talks with UNITA rebels.

"The governments is not altering its programme," Lopo Do Nascimento, close aide to President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, told reporters at Lisbon airport.

"That is: to approve the laws on a multi-party system in March and put them into effect at the beginning of April."

He was speaking before returning to Luanda after a planned sixth round of face-to-face negotiations to end the 15-year civil war had failed to take place.

The former colonial power, Portugal, mediating with support from the United States and the

Soviet Union, blamed the Luanda government.

The mediators had invited the Angolan factions to sign documents setting out what had already been agreed orally — establishing the framework for a ceasefire and introduction of a pluralist democracy.

But a joint statement issued by the three mediators late Friday, after three days of fruitless manoeuvring, said Luanda had sought to introduce "new elements which placed conditions on the previously established agenda."

The mediators will meet again on March 4 to pursue their search for an end to the war, which has devastated a potentially wealthy country and killed hundreds of thousands of people.

The government, a one-party

system of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), refused to sign the documents unless a specific date for a ceasefire was set.

The UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) delegation said it would only negotiate this if a date was set at the same time for the first multi-party elections.

"The date of the ceasefire is interlinked with the holding of elections, which signifies the real implantation of a multi-party system in Angola," rebel spokesman Norberto de Castro said in a television interview.

"The MPLA (Angolan government) arrived in Lisbon and tried to impose a date for a ceasefire without bringing anything in exchange — that is, a date for

elections."

Luanda proposed April 15 as a ceasefire date. Fernando Fialade Santos, number two in the government delegation, argued on television that the time was right for a date to be set.

"We are ready to sign these documents as they are, but we consider it necessary that at the same time we find a way of establishing the date for signature of a ceasefire," he said.

Both sides said they were ready to return to Portugal for fresh negotiations once the mediators invited them.

UNITA receives arms and backing from the United States while the MPLA was armed by Moscow and supported by tens of thousands of Cuban troops.